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NOTICES of Communications intended to be read to the Association accompanied by a statement whether the author will be present at the Meeting, may be sent to Mr. Phillips, M.A., F.R.S., &c., General Secretary, Magdalen Bridge, Oxford; or to Captain Robertson, Richard Bannister, Esq., F.R.S., and Mr. West Hugall, Esq., Local Secretaries, Cheltenham.

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## JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY, SCIENCE, AND ART.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1856.

## REVIEWS.

*Kars, and our Captivity in Russia.* By Colonel Atwell Lake, C.B. Bentley.

The first impression on reading this book is one of regret, that Williams and his gallant companions, instead of gaining their laurels in the defence of a petty fortress, had not been at the head of the British expedition to the East. Had Lord Palmerston ventured to appoint such a man commander-in-chief, he might have done for England what Chatham did when he sent Wolfe to America. A nobler heart could not beat than that of Lord Raglan, but after forty years of peaceful service, he was physically unequal to work which would have tried the youthful energies of Wellington or Napoleon. The Crimean campaign is altogether a melancholy and mortifying chapter in our military annals, relieved only by the noble heroism of the troops. Silistria and Kars are the scenes to which, with most national pride, we can turn in the history of the late war, and when capable officers could accomplish so much with rude Ottoman troops, what might they not have achieved at the head of the greatest and best-appointed army that ever left the shores of England? "We want a head," was the common cry throughout the horrible and heart-rending scenes of the winter of 1854. What could be done, under worse difficulties, by a man of energy, of skill, and resources, the narrative of the defence of Kars memorably teaches.

The story of the siege is already well known in England from the narrative of Dr. Sandwith, from the debates in Parliament, and from the official Blue Book. In the opening chapter of the present volume Colonel Lake gives a brief sketch of the leading events of the siege, chiefly with the view of introducing letters written home at the time by his companions in arms. There are fifty letters of Captain Thompson, thirty-three of General Williams, and three or four of Major Teesdale and of Colonel Lake. These letters are like historical photographs, and bring vividly before us the every-day life of the heroic defenders of the beleaguered town. Of these epistolary materials the largest part of the volume is composed. After the date of the fall of Kars the author resumes the narrative style, and gives, in the concluding chapters of the volume, graphic sketches of the reception of the prisoners-of-war at the camp of Mouravieff, the sojourn at Tiflis, the journey through Russia, and the events of the captivity. The treatment which the prisoners met with from Tiflis to St. Petersburg, and their reception on their return to their own country, are universally known. That they deserved more than all the honour that has been bestowed upon them, every one familiar with the story of the siege will acknowledge, and the letters now made public will increase the respect in which the names of Williams and his gallant companions will ever be remembered by Englishmen.

Presuming that our readers are acquainted with the general history of the siege, we select some of the letters which refer to particular incidents of note, or which bring out the character and spirit of the writers. We keep the order of the dates, and begin with some notices by General Williams of the state of matters on his first arrival at Kars:—

"Camp, Kara, September 28th, 1854.

"I got here on the 25th, and have been employed

by day in seeing and counting the troops, and by night in writing my reports on them. Sandwith joined me a day out of Erzeroum, and is a great comfort. The rascality and peculation here pass all bounds; instead of 30,000 regulars, there are about 16,000; fancy the robbery! I have counted everything, man and cartridge. The men are naked, but I trust all my reports from Erzeroum and Kars will open the eyes of England, France, and the Turks at Stamboul. \* \* \*

"Camp, near Kars, October 6th, 1854.

"Yours of the 28th of August has just come into camp, and I must send you a line in return. I rest not night nor day to bring all the various thefts and wants of this army to the knowledge of the allies. Never was there such an Augean stable to clear out—a remnant of 17,000 half-naked troops with a muster-roll of 30,000—and no preparation made either at Erzeroum or Kars for their winter-quarters. This was the picture. I have personally seen to all, and afterwards written my various reports to be copied in triplicate by my aide Zohrab and the Doctor, who also assists me. By the time that Ismail Pasha arrives all will be ready for the troops should snow or rain fall and winter set in (as it sometimes does) early. Believe me this is the faithful picture of Kars, and of all Asiatic Turkey.

"I have told the sad tale both in despatches to Lords Stratford, Clarendon, and Raglan, and recommended that the fine turbaned heads who thus laugh at the Sultan's firmans and Europe's credulity should be sent through the snow to Constantinople."

One more letter of this early period will show the preliminary work which Williams had to undertake, and which he succeeded in performing:—

"I have a hard fight against the intrigues of those whose rascality I have exposed, but who remain unpunished. I have received every encouragement from the Foreign Office, and from Lord Raglan, and I am sure of their support.

"In fine, by going to Kars and finding the army with a disgraced general at its head, I seized the reins, rectified the muster-rolls, got bread and meat instead of black dough and Carrion for the poor soldiers, visited their cook houses at daylight and dark, brought to light the theft of 12,000 great coats by the Colonels, exposed the drunkenness of the superior officers (which might have enabled the Russians to bayonet us in our tents, if they had been so inclined), cleansed the hospitals and town, and turned out the rascally Pashas from places where two hundred and fifty men are now comfortably housed, aye, three hundred in some. Here, last winter, they drank and caroused, whilst the garrison, of nearly 30,000 men, were packed like herrings, in unventilated dens, and consequently 10,000 died of typhus—there are their graves, poor fellows, and here is no romance of the 'Hostage of Kars.' \* \* \*

"These things have all passed away, and as I told the Governor yesterday, 'if we begin to-morrow, we shall not do more than get all things into order for the campaign in April or May.' I have therefore commenced *hortoring* for ammunition for the siege guns, thirty-two in number, which have barely five hundred, instead of twelve hundred rounds apiece. No attempt to form entrenchments here for our magazine's defence, if such necessities are ever thought of by these drunken, good-for-nothing rascals. Here are my tasks for 1855: those of 1854 are closed with the help of Heaven, and my knowledge of the moment to seize a Turk by the beard. Yesterday I pounced upon their bread; to-day I am going through the snow to fall on their camp kettles, and (unexpectedly) expose these thieving colonels as regards soup (*chourba*, as we Turks call it). I am well, and perfectly happy in the consciousness of having done my duty, in spite of unheard-of neglect."

We pass now to the summer of 1855, when Williams, joined by his English associates, was successfully prolonging the defence of the town. Captain Thompson writes:—

"Kars, 20th June, 1855.  
"Here we are, with the Russians encamped about two miles in our front, and are awaiting their attack with the most praiseworthy serenity. It strikes me that we are something like the two little boys in the story, 'One won't strike, and the other is afraid!' I am convinced that the Russians can never take Kars, as long as our ammunition lasts, and I think it will last longer than their provisions. They will probably have to retire, in case they do attack, which seems to me very doubtful. My opinion is, that they will retire without a fight, as soon as they hear of the fall of Sebastopol, which we are hourly expecting. We heard to-day of the fall of Anapa and Taganrog, and some other place, the name of which we could not make out. \* \* \*

"I hear that several officers are coming out to join us here. They had better hasten, or all the fun will be over. If the English do land troops at Anapa or Batoum we shall winter at Tiflis. This is certain, but there is such a painful forgetfulness of our existence on the part of both the Turkish authorities and those of the Allies, that one would imagine that there was no army here, and that Kars was not the key of Anatolia. If the Russians take Kars there is not a single regiment between them and Constantinople, and hardly the means of procuring troops, except from the Crimea, so you may imagine what a fight we must make of it."

The tidings of the fall of Sebastopol cheered the garrison of Kars, who had soon a glorious victory of their own to boast of. A letter of Colonel Lake contains ample details of the battle of the 29th September, in which he says:—

"I believe the Russians had altogether thirty thousand troops engaged, the flower of the Caucasian army. We had under seven thousand engaged, not one squadron of cavalry; for most of our horses have been killed, and few remained even for our guns. If we had only two regiments of cavalry, and a few artillery horses, we might have followed up the enemy, and done them enormous damage.

"I think for badly clothed, disorganized, undisciplined troops, who have for some time been on less than half rations, the army of Kars has done wonders.

"You will not be surprised at my feeling a little pride at my works answering so well, when I tell you that every single battery and line that I have constructed on the heights was more or less engaged, and the injury done to them is very trifling. They were so placed as to give a flanking fire in every direction, and no troops could stand it. \* \* \*

"Now if Omar Pasha deserves the praise lavished on him, he will walk into Tiflis unmolested, and take Georgia. Instead of having to encounter Mouravieff, with thirty-five thousand splendid troops, he will meet only the balance of the army, and that balance very considerably dispirited. Whether Mouravieff wishes it or not, he is unable to move just yet. He is sending off thousands of carts every day heavily laden with his stores and ammunition (the bulk of it at least); but he cannot leave his wounded. I daresay in a few days he will damp." \*

On the evening of the battle General Williams wrote:—

"Kars, September 29th, 1855.  
"This has been a glorious day for the Turkish arms. The Russian army attacked the heights above Kars, and on the opposite side of the river, at day-dawn; the battle lasted seven hours and a half, when the enemy was driven off in great disorder, leaving 2500 dead in front of our entrenchments, and about 4000 muskets; his numerous wounded were carried off during the fight. Let no one say in future that Turks will not fight if they are properly cared for. Colonel Lake, Major Teesdale, and Captain Thompson behaved splendidly. Teesdale was hit by a piece of spent shell, but not even his clothes torn. Churchill, as well as Zohrab and Mr. Rennison, the two interpreters,

behaved most gallantly. We are burying our dead, and must do so for the Russians. All our tambourines and pouches have been refilled, and ready for Mouravieff, whenever he does us the honour to repeat his visit. Nobody has thought of cholera to-day. We lost 700 killed and wounded."

General Kmety, the Hungarian exile, bore a brave part in the events of that day. He seems to have been much beloved by the English officers. Captain Thompson writes:—

"Kars, October 3rd, 1855.

"I suppose you have heard of our attack, and likewise of the way we whopped the Russians, from [redacted], to whom I wrote an account of it. Up to this morning we have buried 6250 bodies, and more still remain. This is no exaggeration, but sad solemn truth. Our killed and wounded amount to about 1200 all told."

"I hope you think we did our duty; it was 'touch and go,' but our fellows fought well, and will fight much better the next time. It was certainly a glorious victory, when you take into consideration the shocking difficulties we had to contend with. Our Pasha (Williams) may well be proud.

"I am sorry to say the Turks (some of them) behaved badly, and bayoneted the wounded Russians; it was impossible to avoid it; we had but three English officers engaged, and we could not stop it. But all glory to dear old Kmety, who fought like a lion. When he heard of the part I took in driving the Russians out of the English batteries, he rushed upon me and kissed me on both cheeks, calling me 'mein sohn, mein sohn,' and other very flattering epithets, which modesty forbids me to repeat. Dear old man! he has no wish for himself, but to do something for the Turkey which saved him from the Russians after the Hungarian revolution. He is one of the few remaining real Hungarian patriots, and I only wish I were Queen of England for one half hour, that I might reward him as he deserves.

"Directly after the action, our own brave General (Williams) came to where he was and said, 'General Kmety, I thank you in the name of the Queen of England for your gallantry and exertions on this day.' Kmety told me privately, afterwards, that had he been presented with an English earldom and 20,000/- per annum (a fabulous sum to him), he should not have been half so pleased. He was not touched, although in the hottest fire all the morning. His side-de-camp was shot through the arm, but I hope it will be saved."

As autumn passed and winter drew on, it was apparent that the Russians had resolved to maintain the blockade, in hope of starving the garrison into a capitulation. Colonel Lake's narrative gives a terrible view of the condition of the town in October and November, from cholera and famine:—

"Human nature could bear no more. What ever courage may have suggested, humanity had higher claims, especially on men who had proved that they did not lack courage. A few days more, and the troops would have been too weak and prostrate, had the enemy again assailed our entrenchments, to have either defended them with success or to have retreated in safety. Nothing was left but to capitulate on the most honourable and advantageous terms, which might be granted by an enemy who so well knew our prowess that it was to be hoped he would respect our misfortunes."

A manly and feeling letter of Teesdale will best tell the sad end of the nobly-sustained struggle:—

"Russian Camp, near Kars, Nov. 29th, 1855.

"The game has been played out, and we are prisoners. You have, doubtless, heard this news vaguely already, as reports travel quickly through these countries, and the telegraph will soon have taken on the evil tidings. Such a result to our labours will not surprise those at home, who have ever taken the trouble to follow our career; but,

if you can believe such a thing, it is only within the last few days that the dreadful certainty of this happening has broken upon us. Even so late as a week before our surrender, we were buoyed up by hopes from more than one quarter; and, like drowning men, we clung to every straw, and forced ourselves to believe even the impossible; until at last, a little note in cypher from a reliable source, showed us that our fate was sealed, that all we had heard of troops marching to our relief, of provisions being ready to be thrown in, and many other stories, were false; and it is now evident, that they were only concocted by those to whom every day of our misery was a day's more security and idleness. So we were left to perish; the poor men getting weaker and more wretched day by day, until at last the state of the troops was so fearful, that they would not have had the strength to march for an hour, and any attempt to march out would positively have been utterly useless, and would, probably, have resulted in a massacre of those brave men who have watched and fought their strength away; and who, betrayed and abandoned, are now lying about in heaps, dying and disgraced—prisoners to those whom they conquered—the property, so to say, of the power they have so long defied. Still, even in our degradation, I cannot help feeling that the disgrace lies with those whose duty it was to help us; and not with us, who, I believe in my heart, have done what men could do. But it matters little as to causes, now we have only the result to occupy us; so do not be surprised at any bitterness on my part; it may have been from the policy of governments, or from the passions of one bad man, or from bad generalship without the town; it little matters now: Kars has fallen. The Russians have gained half a province, and would have had the greater part of Armenia without a struggle, had not our resistance been sufficiently prolonged to let the winter be far enough advanced to prevent any more operations.

"Have the allies ever thought, I wonder, how much it would have cost them to redeem all this ground, or what they will have to pay, even for what we have lost? The whole business passes my comprehension, and I can scarcely yet believe that all our trials have ended thus; that six months of endless toil, misery, privation, and, at last, moral agony, should have such a termination. I cannot look at the old place we so dearly cherished. The Russian flag, once driven down those hills in disgrace and flight, must be now waving over the castle, and it is too hard to bear. There may be a chuckle over our fate in the Bosphorus; but a reckoning will come some day, if not before man, before God, who best knows the secrets of evil hearts, and a heavy one it will be.

"But enough of these regrets. It is past. Our enemies, who seem far more fully alive to what we have gone through, than our *soi-disant* friends, behave perfectly. I expected it from them, for they fought well. Mouravieff, who is a perfect old gentleman, set the example. I can forgive him with my whole heart, and admire him, too, for his perseverance. We are to start almost immediately; and shall, I believe, go direct to Tiflis, to wait for orders as to our ultimate destination. We shall probably have a chance of writing on our road; so here I shall cease. This is the first letter I have written for ages in bad spirits, and I hope it may be the last. *En attendant*, believe me, &c."

After a short stay at Tiflis, orders came for the prisoners to be removed—Williams, Teesdale, and Churchill to be sent to Riazan, and Thompson and Lake to Penza, the latter a place about 700 miles east of Moscow. A lively account is given of the journey, but in a flying visit through a vast territory it is not to be expected that the author would gather much reliable information as to the country or its people. What came under his notice he describes with liveliness, and some supplemental statistics and descriptions are inserted from Harthausen and other authorities. At

Moscow the Colonel was invited to the wedding of a niece of General Mouravieff, and the account of the ceremony may be to some readers a pleasant relief from the subjects of previous extracts:—

"The bridegroom was an officer of hussars, named Shérmetieff, a relative of one of General Mouravieff's aide-de-camps of the same name, whom we knew in the Russian camp. Among the bridesmaids was Mademoiselle Shérmetieff, sister of our friend, a very handsome and delightful person, speaking English fluently. The wedding took place at 9 P.M., in a private and remarkably pretty chapel. It was a magnificent affair, and the building was filled with persons of both sexes splendidly attired. The ceremony is very imposing, and without attempting any elaborate description, I shall try to give some faint idea of it.

"Before going to the church I was present at the house of the bride's father, and witnessed the ceremony of the parents blessing their child.

"The bride is attended, as in England, by a certain number of bridesmaids, all dressed in white, she herself being in a similar dress, with a wreath of orange-blossoms on her head. The bridegroom is attended by four *garçons de noce*, and is dressed according to his taste. In the present instance he wore the uniform of his regiment. At 5 P.M. they entered the church, and the couple stood in front of the altar, on a piece of rose-coloured muslin, which was spread on the ground by the *garçons*. Two priests then appeared, and the ceremony commenced with chanting. This, however, is only the civil part, if it may be so termed, of the contract; the religious part, as I understand it, consists of a very few words. The priest asks the man if he is willing to take the woman 'for better or for worse,' and he replies in the affirmative. The same question is put to the woman. They are then respectively asked if they have plighted their troth to any other, and, on their answering in the negative, they are pronounced to be man and wife. All that precedes and follows this part of the ceremony seems to be a matter of form. After replying to the two questions, I forgot to say, they each kiss the cross which is presented to them and held to their lips by the priest. Previous to this, a gold crown, decorated with roses, is placed on the heads of each of the contracting parties: a ring is then given to each, which they exchange with each other three times before finally placing them on the finger. After this, a cup of wine is blessed by the priest, and given to the man and woman, who drink of it three times alternately; the priest pronouncing a prayer all the time.

"This is intended to show that the parties consent to live together for the rest of their lives, by drinking out of the same cup. As soon as this has been gone through, solemn chanting having been carried on all the time, the priest joins their hands, and holding them in one of his own, he leads the couple round the church three times, tarrying at the altar for a short time between each promenade.

"This is to show them to the world as man and wife. After this, sundry kisses take place between the bride and her relatives. The bridesmaids then go away, and all the actors, except the principals and the *garçons*, to prepare the house for the reception of the newly married pair, who themselves approach the altar, and listen to a long exhortation from the priest. This being concluded, the party retire in carriages-and-four to the house of the bridegroom, where they indulge in dinner, tea, or supper, according to circumstances; dancing then takes place, and at a reasonable hour they all retire, except the bridesmaids and the *garçons*.

"After spending a most delightful evening I left, laden with flowers and *bouquets*, as is the custom on such occasions."

Some untoward circumstances are frankly mentioned by Colonel Lake, in explanation of his book not being so complete or satisfactory as it might have been. The journal in which he had kept a record of the daily events of the

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siege was unfortunately lost by Dr. Sandwith in the snow storm which overtook him in his journey from Kars to Batoum. The greater part of Major Teesdale's letters had been mislaid by his correspondent, and were not available for the work. Moreover, Colonel Lake has reserved many of the details of the blockade for a scientific work on the subject, composed during his exile in Russia, and intended for professional readers. The present volume, however, is full of interest, and contains materials essential for the historian who may hereafter have to describe this memorable episode in the Russian war.

*England in Time of War.* By Sydney Dobell, Author of "Balder," and "The Roman." Smith, Elder, and Co.

MR. DOBELL does not improve. His lyrics are not more readable than his great dramatic poem. Indeed, as they deal with common things and common feelings, which "Balder" did not, the trick of his style, where mysticism fills the place of thought, and extravagance of imagery does duty for poetical colouring, becomes easy of detection to even the least critical. Nonsense wrapped up in inflated diction passes current for fine writing when the subject is an unfamiliar one; but it is at once recognised, where a wife pining for a husband absent at Sebastopol, or a father bewailing a son killed in the trenches, is the speaker. It is certain that Mr. Dobell will not add to his reputation by this volume, for it is most prolific of unmistakeable nonsense. Indeed, there is scarcely a poem in the book which will stand the scrutiny of criticism either in matter or in style.

It matters not where we dip, we are sure to pick up a plum of conspicuous absurdity. For example, a man is dying, and he addresses the Deity thus:—

"My heart

Is as a lamp of jasper, crystal clear,  
Dark when Thy light is out, but lit with Thee  
The sun may be a suckling at this breast,  
And milk a nobler glory."

Passing over the irreverence of such an image, how preposterous is it on other grounds! The speaker's heart is a lamp, capable of supplying a stream of light to the sun, and we are called upon to picture that luminary as a "suckling," which again does not "milk" the source of the promised nutriment as other sucklings do, but milks the nutriment, "the nobler glory," to wit, itself. Other people milk cows, Mr. Dobell milks milk.

A captain's wife, writing to her husband, closes her epistle thus:—

"So thinking of the debt to Love and me,  
In some dull hour beyond the sea,  
Do thou but only say—  
As carelessly as men do pay their debts—  
'Oh weary day!'  
And that one sigh o'ersets  
The hive of my regrets,  
'Ah weary, weary day,  
Oh day so weary, oh day so dreary,  
Oh weary, weary, weary, weary, weary,  
Oh weary, weary!"

Now mark the absurdity of this. The captain is at Balaklava, the lady in England, yet one sigh of his, vented "as carelessly as men do pay their debts,"—a new phenomenon, by the way, in the relations of debtor and creditor—is to upset the hive of the lady's regrets with all the vehemence of a monsoon. Of course the contents of the hive, by some similar marvel of nature, are to swarm off to Balaklava, and storm the ears of the unfortunate heavy dragoon, whose careless sigh has

caused so much mischief. If the doleful reiteration of the last five lines be any specimen of these hived regrets, the captain doubtless preferred storming the Redan in the hottest day of June to encountering such an assault of weariness and woe.

In the same poem we receive the following curious information:—

"A jester's ghost is sad,  
The shades of merrier flowers do mow and creep."  
The truism in the first line is more than compensated by the paradox in the second, but even that is eclipsed by what follows:—  
"And oh, the vocal shadows that should fly  
About the simplest word that thou canst say,  
What after spell shall ever lay?"

Now, what in the name of nonsense is a "vocal shadow," and how is a shadow to fly about a word, supposing a word to have one? Shadows do not fly in circles like bats. Besides, would it not puzzle a conjuror to lay one, by any spell, either after or before, and that whether the shadow to be exorcised possessed this singular power of circuitous flight, or was only cast in the ordinary way?

"Lady Constance" is the soliloquy of a lady of rank, whose lord is in the Crimea. Her language is precisely what would be used by an English lady in the circumstances! The reader shall judge. She pictures her husband at the door of his tent:—

"My love, my lord,  
I think the toil of glorious day is done,  
I see thee leaning on thy jewelled sword,  
And a light-hearted child of France  
Is dancing to thee in the sun,  
And thus he carols in the dance."

The sex of this "light-hearted child of France" is not very apparent. It may be a *vivandière*, it may be a boy, it may be a girl; but really this is a matter of small moment when the following piece of exquisite nursery rhyme is in question:—

"Oh, a gallant sans peur  
Is the merry chasseur,  
With his fanfarons horn and his rifle ping-pang!  
And his grand havresack  
Of gold on his back,  
His pistol cric-crac!  
And his sword cling-clang!  
"Oh, to see him blythe and gay  
From some hot and bloody day,  
Come to dance the night away till the bugle blows 'au rang,'  
With a wheel and a whirl  
And a wheeling waltzing girl,  
And his bow, 'place aux armes!' and his oath 'feu et sang'  
And his hop and silver ring  
Till his gold and silver ring  
To the clatter and the clash of his sword cling-clang!

"But bark,  
Thro' the dark,  
Up goes the well-known shout!  
The drum beat the turn out!  
Cut short your courting, Monsieur l'Amant!  
Saddle! mount! march! trot!  
Down comes the storm of shot,  
The foe is at the charge! En avant!  
"His jolly havresack  
Of gold is on his back,  
Hear his pistol cric-crac! hear his rifle ping-pang!  
"Vive l'Empereur!  
And where's the Chasseur?

"He's in  
Among the din  
Steel to steel cling-clang!"

How happy are the epithets here, the "fanfarons horn," the "grand havresack of gold!" How fitting the scraps of French, in what a natural vein, in short, is the whole thing conceived! Just the sort of song one would be sure to hear in the camp! It is therefore quite appropriate that the Lady Constance should proceed thus:—

"And thou within the doorway of thy tent  
Leanest at ease with careless brow unbent,  
Watching the dancer in as pleased a dream,  
As if he were a goat i' the evening gleam,  
And thou and I were sitting side by side  
Within the happy bower  
Where oft at this same hour  
We watched them the sweet year I was a bride."

It will cost the reader some pains to find out to what the "them" of the last line refers, and certainly the grammar of the passage will never lead him to connect the word with the gnats, which it seems the Lady Constance and her husband amused their honeymoon with watching in that "bower," which, if they occupied it at all, was probably more favourable, as all bowers are, than we have ever known, to the study of entomology in the shape of earwigs and spiders, than to that "discourse of love" with which poets are prone to connect these leafy retreats. We spare our readers the dismal prosing that ensues, a forbearance which the following brief specimen will enable them to appreciate:—

"I wot too well  
In the set season that I cannot tell  
Death will be near thee. This thought doth defour  
All innocence from time."

Verily the "Lady Constance" is full of fancies chaste and noble."

The following singular burst is most appropriately called—

"WIND.

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the winter stark,  
Oh the level dark,  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the mystery  
Of the blasted tree  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the owl's croon  
To the haggard moon,  
To the waning moon,  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the fleshless stare,  
Oh the windy hair,  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the cold sigh,  
Oh the hollow cry,  
The lean and hollow cry,  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!

"Oh the wold, the wold,  
Oh the wold, the wold!  
Oh the white sight,  
Oh the shuddering night,  
The shivering shuddering night,  
On the wold, the wold, the wold!"

What can this mean? The words are not very various, but they are profoundly unintelligible. "Winter stark," "fleshless stare," "windy hair," "lean cry," "shuddering night," are quite novel suggestions. They are of a piece with the "naked shrieks" of "Balder" and the strange announcement of one of the characters in that dramatic mystery, that she "hears herself grow thin." If poetry consist in bringing together the most incongruous images, Mr. Dobell is a great artist. For example—he has to inform us that one sound is quickly succeeded by another, and how does he do it?

"The wounded silence hath not time to heal."

Thus making silence, which is the mere negation of sound, a substantial body, and suggesting an idea which would never spontaneously enter even an imaginative mind, and which, when suggested, is at once rejected as inapt and untrue. It is in these convulsive efforts to express common ideas in a startling way that the real weakness of Mr. Dobell as a poet becomes most apparent.

The vices of his style are the more to be regretted, seeing that he is not without a certain pictorial power upon occasion. If, indeed, he would but throw aside his lumber of poetical tropes and fantastic diction, and write

the plain language of common life, it is not improbable that he might do something to entitle him to a place among poets. There is close observation and some felicity of expression in the following lines, although, like the Pre-Raphaelite brethren in painting, Mr. Dobell has rather over-elaborated the details. He is describing a sudden gust of wind, followed by a shower :—

"Unlikely things that in the kennel lie  
Begin to wheel and wheel ;  
The wild tarantula will spreads far and nigh,  
And spinning straws go spiral to the sky,  
And leaves long dead leap up and dance their ghastly round.  
And so it happened in the street  
'Neath a broad eave I stood and mused again,  
And all the arrows of the driving rain  
Were tipped with slanting sleet.  
I mused beneath the straw pent of the bricked  
And sodded cot, with damp moss mouldered o'er,  
The bristled thatch gleamed with a carcanet,  
And from the inner eaves the reeking wet  
Dripped; dropping more  
And more, as the sappy roof was sapped,  
And wept a miskir wash that splashed and clapped  
The plain-stones, dribbling to the flooded door.  
A plopping pool of droppings stood before,  
Worn by a weeping age in rock of easy grain.  
O'erhead, hard by, a pointed beam o'erlapped,  
And 'rom its jewelled tip  
The slipping slipping drip  
Did whip the filliped pool whose hopping plashes ticked."

Many of the poems are written in a dialect which Mr. Dobell supposes to be that of what he calls the "Lallans," meaning, we presume, the Lowlands of Scotland. Never was a greater mistake. It is no discredit to Mr. Dobell that he has not mastered the language of Burns, and of the finest ballad poetry in the world, even although, in the estimation of some great literary authorities, that vigorous and plastic language is but "a jargon." But it argues little for his modesty that he ventured to write in a dialect which none but a native can wield. His verbal blunders are endless; but the worst fault of all is the total ignorance of the peasant modes of feeling and thinking which his verses display. Nature, we fear, never meant Mr. Dobell for a dramatist. Alter his dress how he will, the author of "Balder" and "The Roman" is always apparent.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey. The Iron Ores of Great Britain. Part I. The Iron Ores of the North and North-Midland Counties of England.* Longman and Co.

THE enormously increased consumption of iron in England since the introduction of the railway system, renders it of essential importance that attention should be paid, on the part of the iron-masters of this country, to the scientific researches of the metallurgist and mining geologist. The labours of the Geological Survey have been of immense service in pointing out the chances of profit or loss likely to accrue to the owners in the working of mineral veins, and no less acceptable benefit may be gathered from a study of their investigations into the composition of ores. In the Great Exhibition of 1851, Mr. Blackwell, of Dudley, contributed a very extensive series of the iron ores of the United Kingdom. At the close of the Exhibition he not only presented to the Museum of Practical Geology this collection of ores, upon the formation of which he had expended a considerable sum, but he placed at the disposal of Dr. Percy, the metallurgist of that institution, a sum of 500*£*, towards defraying the cost of an analytical examination of their composition. The examination, which has been conducted in the metallurgical laboratory of the School of Mines, commenced in February, 1852, and is not yet quite completed. The

results of the first portion of analyses, namely, of the iron ores of the North and North-Midland Counties of England, have now been published. The labour, as shown by the results tabulated in this volume, must have been considerable, and their important use in affording something like a systematic clue to the causes which go to produce an inferiority in the quality of iron must be obvious to all :—

"There is no metallurgical problem," says Dr. Percy in the preface, "of greater practical importance than the determination of the causes which occasion the differences in quality of the various kinds of iron, differences which have long been recognised by engineers familiar with the use of iron in the construction of bridges, buildings, and railways. Now it is certain that, exclusive of effects due to mechanical treatment, these differences in quality are of a chemical nature. It must be borne in mind, that chemically pure iron is known only as a curiosity even in a laboratory; and that all the substances to which the term iron is commonly applied are compounds, and frequently very complex compounds. But differences of chemical constitution in iron must depend upon differences of chemical constitution either in the ores, the fuel, or other materials used in smelting, or upon differences in the mode of conducting the process of smelting. It has been demonstrated that all these causes, either separately or conjointly, may be powerfully operative in determining the quality of iron; and it may be asserted that not the least influential are those which relate to the ores and fuel. It is hoped, therefore, that, so far as relates to the influence due to the ores, the present investigation will furnish decisive results of considerable practical importance."

The number of smelting furnaces in the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, and Lancashire, is 158, of which 125 are in blast. Many of the mines connected with these have attained to colossal dimensions within a period quite recent. How very recent altogether has been their general working the following statement shows :—

"The employment of the ironstone which occurs in the coal measures, has from very early times invited the establishment of iron furnaces in the coal field of Derbyshire and the south-western part of Yorkshire, and these works are most of them honourably distinguished for the good quality of the material which they produce. Farther north there existed in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, in the year 1828, but one iron-work, consisting of two blast furnaces; whereas within the last few years the improved means of transit and the increasing demand for iron have created extensive establishments, situate chiefly on the western border of the coal field, and fed with ores from various and distant localities. More recently still, within half a dozen years, the discovery and application of the abundant stratified ores of the Cleveland district in Yorkshire, has led to the erection of groups of smelting works in the southern part of Durham, and near Middlesbrough in Yorkshire; and whilst in some cases the ore is conveyed for many miles by railway to the coal producing district, in others the fuel is transported in the opposite direction to the immediate neighbourhood of the iron mines."

The analytical details of the volume are, of course, purely technical. There can be no doubt of their value, in an economical point of view, so far as they go; but yet further researches are needed; such as an investigation and comparison of the irons produced, and of the fuel and flux employed in the process of smelting; and to this should the attention of the Government be directed. Researches of a similar kind, Dr. Percy mentions, have been carried on for several years past, by the Ordnance Department of the United

States, at Pikesville, with reference to the materials employed in the manufacture of cannon, and it is proposed to carry out a more extensive series of analyses conjoined with exact mechanical tests.

*The Theory and Practice of Banking: with the Elementary Principles of Currency, Prices, Credit, and Exchange.* By Henry Dunning Macleod, Esq. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

On the Theory and Practice of Banking this is a most complete and systematic treatise. Mr. Macleod gives full and clear statements of the elementary principles of the monetary system in all its branches, including the theories of currency, of prices, credit, and exchange. The history of the subject is treated at great length, and with considerable learning. In the chapter on the Different Substances used as Currency by different Nations, some curious historical notices are introduced. Of the development and usages of the banking system of this country ample details are given, and few of the topics of practical or theoretical importance bearing on commercial and monetary transactions are left without copious discussion in these volumes. But the point upon which, above all, Mr. Macleod's work deserves praise, is its philosophical spirit, the subject being throughout regarded as reducible to the principles of inductive science, and therefore capable of being freed from much of the uncertainty and vagueness by which treatises on political economy are too often characterized. In the introductory dissertation the author lays down certain principles as necessary to the satisfactory discussion of such questions, and the manner in which he does this gives confidence in his judgment and ability. The remarks on the strict definition of technical terms indicate this philosophical spirit :—

"Like every other science whatever, the Monetary System has ideas and principles which are peculiar to itself, and if these could be as thoroughly and carefully investigated as is done in every other science, it would necessarily assist in removing some of the differences of opinion, and contradictory views upon the subject. It is because such care has been taken in ascertaining and settling the elementary principles of the physical sciences, that they are so well understood, and so few differences of opinion prevail about them; and it is because such care and attention has never yet been bestowed upon settling the definitions and elementary principles of Monetary Science, that it is still in so confused, controverted, and unsatisfactory a state. Considering, then, the great importance of the subject, it is certainly desirable that some attempt should be made to supply this want, and the following work is a contribution towards it. If this subject is to be treated in a scientific manner the very first requisite is to follow the practice adopted in every other science, and to settle its definitions and axioms. Until this is done it is useless to advance a single step into the subject. There has been no greater source of confusion and controversy than the practice we are familiarized with from our very infancy, of using words whose precise meaning we have never clearly defined in our own minds. This, I think, I may at least say, that we should have a great many fewer disputes in the world, if words were taken for what they are, the signs of our ideas only, and not for the things themselves. For when we argue about matter, or any like term, we truly argue only about the idea we express by that sound, whether the precise idea agree to anything really existing in nature or not. And if men would tell what ideas they make their words stand for, there could not be half that obscurity or wrangling in the search of a support of truth, that

there is.' And the difficulty and subtlety inherent in the nature of the subject is much aggravated by this ambiguity of the words and terms used, for 'men think that their reason controls their language, but it often happens that words turn back and reflect their force over the intellect.'

In the spirit of these extracts from Locke and Bacon, the author conducts his researches and discussions, and much sound information on general subjects of political economy, as well as on the details of banking, will be procured from his treatise. The necessity for accurate definition of terms is further illustrated in the following remarks:—

"Archbishop Whately notes that 'the great defect of Adam Smith, and of our own economists in general, is the want of definitions'; and, again, 'The foundation of political economy being a few general propositions deduced from observation, or from consciousness, and generally admitted as soon as stated, it might have been expected that there would be as little difference of opinion among political economists as among mathematicians—that being agreed in their premises, they could not differ in their conclusions, but through some error in reasoning so palpable as to be readily detected. And if they had possessed a vocabulary of general terms as precisely defined as the mathematical, this would probably have been the case. But as the terms of this science are drawn from common discourse, and seldom carefully defined by the writers who employ them, hardly one of them has any settled and invariable meaning, and their ambiguities are perpetually overlooked.' And Mr. Mill most aptly, but most suicidally, quotes from Say, a remark that it is in the very elements of our subject, that illustration is most usefully bestowed, since the greatest errors which prevail in it may be traced to the want of a thorough mastery over the elementary ideas."

"Cobbett wrote an English Grammar in which all the examples of solecisms and blunders were drawn from the speeches of peers and members of parliament; so we might undertake to write a complete treatise on logic, and every example of logical fallacy should be drawn exclusively from the published opinions, either spoken or written, of Mr. Ricardo, Mr. M'Culloch, Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Samuel Jones Loyd, Col. Torrens, Mr. Norman, Sir Robert Peel, and Sir Archibald Alison, on the subject of the currency."

And, again, after giving a review of the strange diversities of opinion, and conflicting statements of writers on monetary affairs:—

"The reason why this noble science is in such a melancholy state of confusion is, that no writer who has handled it, possessed the indispensable qualifications for success. Monetary Science is as purely an Inductive Science as Mechanics, consequently, a competent knowledge of the Inductive Philosophy is absolutely requisite as the groundwork, to indicate the grand general principles upon which the subject is to be treated. Again, many of the views of the chief writers on the subject are founded upon certain assumed legal doctrines, consequently, a practical knowledge of that department of law is indispensably necessary, to avoid the most absurd blunders. Again, Monetary Science treats of the causes influencing the movements of the circulating medium; and, consequently, a practical knowledge of the details of banking business is indispensably necessary. These three qualifications, then, are indispensably necessary to treat the subject in a successful manner. It never can be done, except by bringing the principles of true science to bear on the practical details of business."

We might be tempted to give some extracts from the historical portions of the work, in which we have met with some curious illustrations of words and allusions in classical and in English literature; but we content ourselves with having introduced to our readers a book important for occasional reference,

even by those not directly interested in banking affairs. In style the author has a tendency to be somewhat dogmatic, but he writes from practical knowledge of the subject; and faults both of manner and matter may be forgiven in a book so large and full of useful information.

#### Ferny Combes. A Ramble after Ferns in the Glens and Valleys of Devonshire. By Charlotte Chanter. Reeve.

At this delightful opening of the autumnal season, when many a little family are busily collecting their camp-stools and sketch-books, their butterfly-nets, botanical boxes, and dry-ing-paper, doubting, for a moment, amid the perplexities of Bradshaw, whither to direct their steps, we may do well to lead them to the pretty dells and moors of Devonshire. Mr. Gosse has described its coral caves and microscopic marine animals and algae, and the author of 'Glaucus' has also sketched, in his own glowing manner, the wonders of the shore. Mrs. Chanter, a sister of Mr. Kingsley, as appears from the dedication, invites us with a lively pen to the famous combes of Devon in search of ferns. Both seem to have imbibed a taste for natural history as children, from the friendship of good old Dr. Turton, and often, doubtless, have they rambled in the woods together, turning up dead leaves in quest of material for the 'British Land Shells.' Ferns, however, came to be the especial pursuit of Charlotte Chanter:—

"Unlike general botany, which gives comparatively little pleasure after the flower is named, from the difficulty of preserving the colour of the specimens, the study of ferns not only leads the collector into the most picturesque scenery and wildest haunts of nature, but by the winter fireside, or in the close rooms of our crowded cities, he has but to open his 'Fern-book' and the forms of his favourites appear before him as green and graceful as when they hung by the mountain torrent or waved in some quiet shady lane, bringing back to remembrance pleasant summer rambles amid lovely scenes, making the heart swell with gladness at the recollection of the forms of beauty and purity on which he has been permitted to gaze."

"Some ferns are only to be found in certain situations. *Asplenium crispus*, the Parsley Fern, so called from its resemblance to parsley, is found only on lofty hills, and people are apt to confine their search for it to the north of England and Wales, because those are the habitats generally given. Botanists, however, have not yet looked everywhere; there are still many untrodden corners, and, we feel certain, many an unthought-of treasure yet to be discovered. This fern was found a few years ago on Exmoor, not far from Challacombe. We have hunted for it three or four times, but without success. In our search for the Parsley Fern we stumbled on *Polyodium Phegopteris*, the Beech Fern, for which that locality was never before given. Now *P. Phegopteris* has often in its company the delicate Oak Fern, *P. Dryopteris*, so we searched further, and to our great delight found abundance of *Phegopteris* and the pretty *Dryopteris* (which until that day was supposed to be absent from Devon and the adjoining counties) intermixed with it.

"In the same glen we lighted on a few fine plants of *Polystichum lobatum*, and two of the *Lycopodium* (provincially known by the name of 'Good luck'), *clavatum* and *Selago*. Moreover we had the pleasure of seeing two ring-ousels, or mountain blackbirds, in their native haunts, and their strange call, as they whirled around us, or seated on a stone watched our movements, added to the wildness of the scene. *Lastrea rigida* is believed to grow only on limestone, *Asplenium viride* to be confined

to lofty positions, *Woodia* to the highest mountains and most inaccessible cliffs, *Lastrea Thelypteris* is the inhabitant of marshes, *Lastrea cristata* of bogs; yet remember there is many a bog, many a marsh, many a cliff, that has never been really well searched, and you may chance to stumble on a variety where least expected. To tell the exact spots where each plant grows would be depriving you of one of the greatest pleasures and interests of the pursuit, namely, discovery for yourself. If you take a tour through Devonshire, and use your eyes as you travel, you will hardly fail to find most of the ferns I shall describe to you; but it is no exercise of observation to walk straight to a given point, pluck a leaf, and walk back again; no, a fern collector, if he really wish to make discoveries, must be ever on the alert, ever watching; even on a wall you have passed a hundred times without observing anything curious, the hundred and first time you may find a treasure you did not think was within fifty miles of you."

Mrs. Chanter invites us forth to her native hills with the true spirit of a naturalist, and a taste strongly impressed with a love of the picturesque:—

"Do you know what it is to love the country thoroughly? To rejoice in Nature's wildest, grandest scenes, and yet to have your lot cast either in a town where you see nought but smoke and houses, or in a country where all around nothing meets the eye but low ferns, peaty dykes, and alder bushes, save, where far away, the dim outline of a great cathedral rises against the sky, man's substitute for mountains? If you love the country, then you know the intense delight it is to catch a view of distant hills. At first they are but a purple line on the horizon; then as one approaches they gradually rise until we make out the tower of some village church, and then a stately mansion with its ancient trees around, and the little cottage homes nestling hard by!

"Just so the hills of the West appear to us as we rush towards them on the railway, which we leave at Bridgewater and take the road which runs through Minehead to Lynton.

"Now we have passed Coleridge's Nether Stowey and Southey's 'Kilve by the green sea,' which shines in the sun away to our right, with the hills of Wales beyond. After crossing the beautiful Quantock Hills we see in front of us the country for which we are bound. Then rises Dunster Castle, and behind it the brown rolling mass of Exmoor looms up against the sky.

"This is decidedly the best entrance into Devonshire, and it is much to be regretted that it is not better known and more frequented. The whole route from Bridgewater is rich in lovely scenes; and the first impression of the Great Western County will be one of astonishment, as from 'The County Gate' the traveller looks down on Glenthorne, the marvellous residence of Mr. Halliday, and is told, that to reach the house he sees just beneath him requires a winding road three miles long. Such are Devonshire hills!"

But we must hasten on to Hartland, keeping near the cliffs, and "crossing two narrow glens with dancing rivulets, overshadowed by the stately *Osmunda*":—

"The magnificent tower of the parish church rises above the woods, and the grassy Warren slopes upwards from the stream. Following the valley, we pass the Abbey (a comparatively modern building on the site of the old), under stately trees, by rich meadows, where the hay smells sweetly up the 'Vale' for a couple of miles, till we come to the town.

"Now let us start for the more unknown part of Hartland. We follow the Vale again, with noble trees on either hand, under which the ferns attain an immense size, particularly *Lastrea dilatata*.

"Before we reach the Abbey, we turn to the left, up a steep hill to the church, which is magnificently placed, and bears witness to the good taste of its founders. An ancient screen, in excel-

lent preservation, is worth particular attention. It is most elaborately carved, the upper part representing grapes and vine-leaves ; it is quite a work of art, and probably beguiled many an hour for the monks of the abbey near by. From the churchyard a stile leads into a broad turf road along the fields, to the quay. A wilder place than this can hardly be found. The quay itself is much the size of that at Clovelly, and built after the same fashion ; but there is but one most dismal-looking house, with stores for the coals, etc., that are landed here. The broken, craggy, black rocks jut out into the sea and break the waves as they come rushing in like wild horses, and all around rise giant cliffs perforated with deep, mysterious caverns, where the *Osmunda* and the Sea Fern hang from their dripping roofs. A scramble over the wet rocks and lines of sand to these caves will enable a person to judge of the stupendous height of the cliffs. By night the scene is most grand and awful.

"Passing on, we keep at the edge of the cliff (which at the back of the quay are of no great height) till we come to a semiconical hill called Catherine's Tor. It rises abruptly from the shore now, but legends say it once presented a sloping side to the sea, similar to its present land side, but that, year by year, it gradually crumbles away. This is proved by the remains of a Roman villa which have been discovered at the very apex of the cone, in a position in which no sane man would at present remain five minutes, and on the side towards the land are still the remains of a zigzag road leading to the summit. This hill is separated from its neighbours by a broad flat piece of turf, across which a wall of immense width and strength stretches : what could have been its use is now difficult to discover, or when built, but tradition points to it as ancient. There used to be a path down the cliff, near Catherine Tor, which enabled you to reach Milford beach ; but it is now in so dangerous a condition, one is obliged to follow the bends of the coast till we reach the valley of Milford. Sweet, pleasant spot, with its sparkling merry stream, its gorse-clad hills and flowery turf ! Though it is a realcombe, it is a considerable height above the sea, as you will discover when you approach the precipice and see, far below you, dozens of donkeys looking like mice, being laden with sand on the beach.

"The path is narrow, rough, and steep, and you are obliged to keep out of the way of the donkeys with their wet sacks, as they toil up heavily laden, or are driven down pell-mell (invariably choosing the best and safest part of the road) by wild little urchins who, at a certain corner, leave the animals to their own inventions, and, seating themselves on a large pebble, slide down the smooth face of a sloping rock, which is scored with the slides of preceding generations. The sand, which is used for manure, is only to be obtained at low tide, the beach immediately under the cliff being formed of what are provincially termed 'popple-stones,' large pebbles about the size of a man's head ; while lower down jagged rocks start up, and between them the bright yellow sands gleam like threads of gold.

"Catherine Tor forms the termination of the beach on one hand ; on the other, masses of rock thrown together in every variety of position, with the waves surging and boiling around, prevent aught save the sea-birds penetrating further. The gem of the place is the waterfall. It is difficult to describe the beauty of this spot : the stream flows over the smooth face of a perpendicular cliff, and then by two lower falls reaches the beach, while all around the cliffs close in, leaving only room for the foamy river.

"But we must mount the rugged path again, and, crossing the stream just above the fall, proceed along a grassy glen, where the round-leaved sun-dew, the bog pimpernel, and the pale Cornish butterwort grow in profusion, and come out upon 'the Common,' where the ravens build, and teach their young to fly, and the goats bound away before you, or reaching some place of safety on the cliffs, stand stamping with anger at your intrusion.

For two or three miles the road lies over short turf, starred with the centauries ; and few who have not travelled this road can fully appreciate beautiful Devon.

"The great extent of turf, now so rarely found, the noble cliffs, the wondrously indented and diversified shore, with the blue Atlantic close beneath you, are unrivalled ; nor will the lover of beautiful scenery think lightly of the Valley and Mouth of Welcombe or the Glen of Marsland, whose winding stream, filled with small but excellent trout, separates the counties of Devon and Cornwall.

"Ah ! truly it is all very wild and very lovely, and also very beautiful ; and every day spent in that bright clear air, and amid those glorious scenes, does one good mentally and bodily."

Before closing the book we are tempted to quote an extract descriptive of more inland scenery :—

"Out upon the hills ! the glorious, granite-capped hills of Dartmoor, breezy and fresh ! Thousands of acres free from cultivation, for Nature has put her own seal upon them. Ages, ages ago were those huge blocks of granite strewn about, defying man to intrude on Nature's solitude ; for who could remove all those countless myriads of stones, to till the ground that lies beneath ?

"Yet centuries ago this wild region, and the wildest parts of it, now deserted by man, were the abodes of a curious, wonderful people. Dartmoor was one of the strongholds of the Druids ; and the many 'hut circles,' 'stone avenues,' tolmens, and cromlechs, show them to have been a numerous people, marvellously attached to stones.

"Their peculiarly pet place, Wistman's Wood, is unique. Gigantic blocks of granite, so piled one on the other that the only way to get along is to jump from stone to stone. Woe betide you if you put your foot on a nice tempting piece of sedge or grass ! The thin crust speedily gives way, and you may chance to get wedged in between Druidical remains.

"From among the rocks spring ancient oaks, known as ancients even in ancient days, gnarled and stunted, clothed with hoary mosses and parasitic plants.

"Not long ago we found numerous rabbit-paths along the branches of the trees. Do naturalists record the fact that rabbits frequent trees ; or is it peculiar to those in Wistman's Wood ?

"Wise people say that Wistman's Wood ought to be 'Wise Man's Wood,' in honour of the very clever and intellectual people who once resided there. Having a slight knowledge of the Devonshire vernacular, we make so bold as to suggest that 'whist' or 'wist' signifies sorrowful, mournful. Any one who has visited Wistman's Wood can hardly fail to have been struck with the doleful moans and sighings which assail him on all sides (added to his own if he have a tumble, no unlikely thing), making him fancy that a regiment of Arch-Druids and Bards are bewailing the overthrow of their altars, the desecration of their circles, the standing still of their rocking-stones.

"In visiting Dartmoor from North Devon the best route is through Torrington to Oakhampton. The former most beautifully situated on a steep bank overhanging the Torridge ; the latter in the pretty valley of the Ockment 'Under the Moor.'

"Oakhampton is a dull, deserted-looking place, but there are many sights in the neighbourhood which it is considered necessary for those professing to have seen Dartmoor to have visited ; whether they are worth the trouble must depend on the taste of the visitor. Yes Tor, the highest peak in Devonshire, rises, about five miles from the town, to a height of upwards of two thousand feet. The view from the summit is extensive ; the hills of Exmoor away in the north, Rough Tor and Brown Willy in the west, while near at hand the rival hill of Cawsand Beacon and the minor tors

and bogs of 'the Moor' stretch away for miles ; but the ascent is difficult and toilsome, over huge masses of granite which lie scattered in every direction ; indeed, in some places not a blade of grass is to be seen ; it is literally a hill of rocks. Cawsand Beacon and Taw Marsh are also among the sights of this neighbourhood, but are hardly worth a visit from any one who has braved the rocks of Yes Tor, as the view is very much the same, and the bogs far more abundant. But if you really wish to see the moor and do not mind 'roughing it,' there are two or three out-of-the-way places where you may manage to exist for a day or two. And first, on the high road between Oakhampton and Tavistock we shall find the 'Dartmoor Inn.' I give you warning that your fare may be nothing more luxurious than eggs and bacon, sparkling beer and sparkling water ; but it will be served to you on so white a table as perchance your eyes ne'er lighted on, and your snowy sheets will smell refreshingly of mountain peat. Yet, if you follow my suggestion, you will find yourself landed at a little wayside public-house, in the middle of a moor. Never mind ! only accompany me, and you will have a treat you little expect.

"We descend the lane opposite the house, passing an old square castle where the Stannary Courts were formerly held, and the notorious Jeffreys sat in judgment ; he is supposed to haunt the place still in the form of a black pig. There are numberless pigs hereabouts, white as well as black, all sufficiently ugly to personate Jeffreys or any other unjust judge. Now we stand on Lydford Bridge. We look around with a feeling of disappointment ; we came to see something fine, and do not see it. 'Hush ! do you hear that low murmur ?'

"Come, look over the parapet."

"You start back astonished ! giddy !"

"Far, far, below you, at the bottom of a narrow fissure (not unlike that at Pont-y-Mynach, near Aberystwith), rushes the mountain torrent through its polished slippery bed, hollowed out of the solid rock into innumerable 'punch-bowls,' inaccessible to the most venturesome and sure-footed."

In this agreeable style are all the more attractive points of Devonshire scenery described, and at the end of the volume is a detailed list of the species and different varieties of ferns inhabiting the county, accompanied with diagnostic characters, and many with beautifully-executed coloured figures.

#### *A Handbook of the Greek Drama.* By Edward Walford, M.A. Longman and Co.

The results of the learned researches of Donaldson, Bos, Müller, and other scholars, on the theatre of the Greeks, are presented by Mr. Walford in a concise and systematic handbook for the use of classical teachers and students. Of the origin and history of the drama, the characteristics of the principal writers in tragedy and comedy, and the various forms assumed by dramatic art and poetry at different times, an account is given, with supplemental disquisitions on dramatic rhythm, quantity, verse, dialect, and phraseology. One chapter contains an analysis and abstract of the Poetics of Aristotle, of which it is the author's intention to bring out an edition with English notes. The treatise, like others of Aristotle, deserves to be more generally studied than it is. It is as much, however, for the general reader as for the classical student that we give the present notice of the work. The revivals of plays, the scenery and illustrations of which belong to ancient times, the recent classical representations among us of Rachel and of Ristori, and other circumstances, have awakened more than usual interest in the history and nature of the Greek drama. The scholar may revise

his recollections, or acquire information on many points by a reference to this handbook, which will save the trouble of search among learned treatises and voluminous dictionaries. Even the common playbills of our theatres, as in *The Winter's Tale*, at the Princess's, talk about the Pyrrhic dance, and the great Dionysia, and Dorian choruses, and other phrases which are Greek to the multitude of readers, though interpreted amply by Mr. Kean's magnificent scenery and spectacles. By those who wish to know more about these terms, Mr. Walford's Handbook may be usefully consulted. Of the less technical portion of his book the following extracts may serve as specimens :

"We will suppose ourselves suddenly transported to the streets of Athens as they appeared some three and twenty centuries backward in the world's history. It is early spring; and the feast of the greater Dionysia is being celebrated. The allies from a hundred subject cities are in Athens. Besides these, there are meteors and other strangers in hundreds and thousands: rough mountaineers from Arcadia, sturdy seamen from Rhodes and Crete, the dark swarthy faces of Egyptians, and the more polished and wealthy merchants from Cyprus and Phoenicia. The city is beside itself with joy; and its inhabitants are vying with each other in doing honour to the fabled victories and the more tangible bounties of Dionysus. There is silence indeed in the law courts and the prisons; for how shall prisoners not be freed by the god whom the people worships under the title of Eleutherius? But in the streets there is nothing to be heard but the Bacchic song, or to be seen save the Bacchic revelry of the Thiasus; the gift of the wine-god is freely drunk, and inspires his votaries with proportionate enthusiasm. It is an ancient carnival outdone in the madness of its boisterous and extravagant merriment. There is the phallic procession, headed by a citizen who carries the thyrsus, and who, with his attendant train of revellers, has assumed the goat-skin of the ancient satyrs, and has daubed his face and arms with green and red juices, or painted them with stripes of soot and vermillion. Behind him walk in stately order some comely maidens of noble birth, who, with heads erect, bear aloft the mystic basket of sacred figs, while a λύκυφόρος carries the image of the god himself, and a motley crowd of male and female maskers, Bacchae, and Thyades, close the procession with the boisterous music of flutes, cymbals, and drums. And again in the great public procession of the day, where the noblest of foreigners and citizens are collected, the god is represented by the most beautiful of the slave population, dressed out in the most expensive and fantastic of theatrical arrays, and the joyous crowd, with frantic cries of triumph and exultation, attend the principal train to the Temple of Bacchus."

Details then are given of the structure of the theatres, and the form of the dramas exhibited. In the account of the chief tragic writers the following notice of Euripides may at present interest some of our readers, though the play in which Ristori appears gives little idea of the ancient drama on which it is founded :

"Euripides is styled by Aristotle the most tragic (*τραγικώρας*) of poets; and although it may be to a certain extent questionable how far this epithet be a just one, yet there can be no doubt that it points to a peculiarity which it is in vain for his detractors to gainsay. 'He has approached nearer to the fountain of tears,' says Keble, 'than any other tragedian.' This, as the testimony of one by no means disposed to flatter Euripides, must be held to be conclusive. \*

"Euripides, notwithstanding his defects, was the most universally admired of the ancient poets. Cicero was one of his most devoted adherents, and, it is said, was reading the *Medea* at the moment of

his death. It is impossible, therefore, to doubt that many of his faults have been exaggerated, and many of his peculiarities misunderstood. His leading deformities have been reduced by Mr. Keble to four:—First, his oratorical frigidity; secondly, his scepticism; thirdly, his hatred of women; and, fourthly, the weakness of his choral parts. On the second of these heads we have already said sufficient. On the third we can only refer our readers to the afore-mentioned writer Hartung, and the author of the critique now under observation, while the fourth we prefer to reserve to a future page. To the first we propose to devote a few observations. 'Shakspeare,' says Keble, 'gives to his characters attributes, which are *propria*; Euripides those which are *communia*: that is to say, the grief of *Medea* and *Iphigenia*, though beautifully described, is still not different from the grief of any other women in the same circumstances.' This is a very fine observation; but we are half inclined to doubt whether it may not be turned against himself. To illustrate what he means by oratorical frigidity, he compares the speech of *Jason* on hearing that he is deprived of his children, with that of *Macduff*, the latter of which he has translated into most elegant Latin.

"Now it appears to us that *Jason* would naturally express himself in a different manner from *Macduff*. In the first place, the relations between *Jason* and *Medea*, and *Macduff* and *Lady Macduff*, were completely unlike. There was nothing at all domestic and innocent about the former. It is quite natural that a man who has formed a vicious connexion, should moralize in a certain artificial manner on its dissolution, or on its consequences. In fact, he would be the imperfect artist who should introduce the passionate lover of a *Medea*, lamenting after the same fashion as an ancient British chieftain.

"It is also to be observed that to whatever extent the highly educated critic may object to this same oratorical frigidity, it is by no means an obstacle to great and enduring popularity. No ancient poet has written so many quotable things as Euripides; and we find that among modern poets also, this is one great source of lasting reputation. Many of our most familiar English quotations are derived from second and third rate productions. Witness Addison's *Cato*, Pope's 'Essay on Man' (which, however great its merits, is scarcely great as a poem), and very many dramas of the 18th century. The sort of popularity which Euripides obtained is obtainable by any one who writes for the masses. He 'sought,' says Keble, 'to bring poetry down to common life, as Socrates did philosophy'; but he sought it in a totally different manner. Socrates sought to state deep truths in a homely manner; Euripides, to state homely truths in an apparently dead manner. This latter is the secret of his popularity: common-place thoughts, put tersely and epigrammatically, are what attract the vulgar; and Euripides has given us these sort of apophthegms on every conceivable subject interesting to humanity—birth, death, and marriage,—heaven, earth, and Hades—politics, poetry, and law,—on one and all of these subjects, some semi-philosophic observation is dropped by Euripides. Every young Athenian who declined the labour of investigating the mysterious utterances of Aeschylus, or found no attraction in the deep calm of Sophocles, could still quote to his companions such passages as this:

'τίς οἶδεν εἰ τὸ Σῆν μὲν ἔτι κατθανεῖν  
τὸ κατθανεῖν δὲ Σῆν;

or again—

'τοῦ θεοῦ ξένος τὸν τὸν  
φίλους, ἀριστὴν μαρτυρῆν χοι τῶνοις.'

or else—

'κακῶς Σῆν κρείστον ὡς θανεῖν καλῶς;

or, in nobler terms—

'Ελλήπος κοινὸν μὲν ἔτεκες, οὐχὶ τοι μόνη.'

These are but a thousandth part of those neatly put platitudes which would have naturally rendered Euripides a favourite in an age when writing was unknown, and when memory alone was depended on. \*

"In 431 B.C. was exhibited the *Medea*, which in the opinion of many is the best of all the poet's performances. The character of *Medea* herself is very finely drawn; and though the murder of the children is perhaps in excess of the legitimate bounds of tragedy, yet *Medea*'s language is interspersed with so much that is touching and natural, that we are less shocked than might be expected:

'φῦν, φῦν, τί προσγελάτε μ' ὑμανον, τίκνα.'

The mother is here shown not one whit less strongly than the incensed enchantress; and it is the union of these two characters which constitutes the great interest of the play."

The appendix to the Handbook contains miscellaneous papers, including Porson's Canons on the Greek Tragedians, Bishop Blomfield's Canons and Remarks, Canons and Remarks in the 'Hippolytus' and 'Alcestis' of Professor Monk; a paper on the Site and Construction of the Dionysiac Theatre at Athens, by Thomas Campbell, the poet; on the Chorus, from Franklin's Preface to Sophocles; and a paper on Aristophanes, his History, Character, and Works, from 'Cumberland's Observer.' These appendices, and the frequent quotations and notes from the works of German and English scholars and critics throughout the text of the volume, render Mr. Walford's book a useful compendium of information and a convenient manual of reference.

#### Horatio Howard Brenton. A Naval Novel.

By Captain Sir Edward Belcher, R.N., C.B.  
3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

SIR EDWARD BELCHER must write a better novel than this before he takes rank with the Halls and Marryats of naval literature; admirable sketches, however, there are in the book, and marks here and there of a skilful and able pen. "The story," he tells us in the preface, "may be received without hesitation as a genuine contribution to the history of humanity. The scenes described in it are photographs and not pictures; the conversations recorded in it actually fell from lips which are but just cold; family documents, of undeniable authenticity, and even the records of several of the public offices, might be, and may be, if necessary, produced to attest its truth." Of the strangeness of the story the reader will be abundantly satisfied. But the very fact of the book being partly a biographical record, prevents the author from giving many reminiscences and sketches of his own experience at sea, which might have been woven into a more original romance. The personal and family affairs of Horatio Howard Brenton, apart from his naval career, become somewhat tedious as the story unfolds, in lengthened narratives and supplementary episodes, all about his grandfather's will, and his mother's clandestine marriage, and his villainous uncle, and his gradually emerging relatives, and the mysterious linking of his fortunes with the Ellen Percy with whom, at the close, he is paired off, to the discomfiture of his secret enemies, and the comfort of his grandfather's ghost, if that entity knows what passes at Doctors' Commons. It would puzzle a proctor to explain in reasonable limits the outs and ins of the family history of Horatio Howard Brenton, though the reader of the novel will not fail to become absorbed in the progress of the plot. We prefer giving a specimen of the naval yarns and shrewd professional experiences which form the salt of the book in our judgment. The service of young Howard Brenton reached from 1806 till after the bombardment

of Algiers. Having been often on the North American station, sketches of life at Halifax form a conspicuous feature in the novel. But there are also notices of service on other seas, as on the African coast:—

"We ran down the Bay, along the coast of Portugal, and reached Teneriffe, without sighting even a cruiser; there we touched; obtained wine, bullocks, fruit, and vegetables; enjoyed ourselves at a tertulio, given by the governor, learned a few Spanish words from very pretty lips, and off again for the Cape de Verds, which we searched closely for any lurking privateers, and then struck for the track of homeward-bound Indiamen, so as to apprise them of the present disposition of our fleet, and also of that of the enemy, which was for the present blockaded in Brest and Basque Roads. We soon met one of the tail of the convoy, and ascertained that the rest had passed on, but we might fall in with three French frigates working up, as they imagined, the African coast. We stood in for Sierra Leone, and there we lay, as we thought, to die like sheep. But, fortunately, intelligence reached of three French frigates being at the Isles De Los. Three or thirty seemed all the same; we were soon at sea, and having shipped the crew of a brig captured, but sent in a cartel to Sierra Leone, we started in pursuit. For obvious reasons I shall be silent. It is not my intention to fight that action as it was fought, and most gallantly—or fight it better than it was fought—but somehow or other I could tell the tale much better than it has been narrated, and deeds of valour were done there which would have graced history better than the puny affair we find recorded. The *Amelia*, unfortunately, had more than her complement, and the unfortunate main-top-sail braces (I believe should read main-top bow-line), let go by some lubber, after the braces were shot away—caused great mischief.

"The other unfortunate events were the loss of the proper commanding officers—the assumption of command by those who did not belong to her—and of no one adequately carrying out the captain's orders—no Noble fighting—all helter-skelter noise.

"The fighting was desperate, and truly, as narrated, did the anti-gopists fight with sponges. But had the vessel not fallen foul, ten to one would have fallen, by the cool, deliberate aim of the marines, at the French serving the rammers. They fell, and took with them the sponges in repeated instances; and distance alone was required to have almost reduced the matter, on the opponent's side, to musketry—for the guns of the *Amelia* were well served, and the masts of the *Arethusa* would soon have been by the board, and all her sharpshooters, from aloft, sent to their reckoning, had the vessels not been fouled. So I perceive my notes run, and query,—Why were the top-gallant sails taken in?

"Possibly, by the captain's order I may be told. There are reasons why I should not discuss more. I should like a reply, to get at the truth if I could; but who lives to contest it?—and it only remains to ask, where are the captain's letters on this subject? He would never communicate these for publication. But several I could name, and alive, well know his feelings relative to that action, and how bitterly he felt the neglect of such services as he had rendered.

"But the historian forgets to tell that when the *Amelia* next day mustered, ready to renew action, if compelled, it was still under the impression that the consort would get off, and he should then be able to cope with two. Reverse the case,—would the *Amelia*, remanned as the *Arethusa* was, have avoided action?—would she have allowed an enemy so desperately cut up to escape? Never!"

Of the bombardment of Algiers there is a spirited sketch:—

"Lord Exmouth bore up, followed closely by *Superb*, until she was signalled, 'anchor instantly.' *Minden* next *Superb*, *Albion*, *Impregnable*.

"Now used to exhibit the absurdity of the as-

sumed historian of a naval battle, at page 578, we are informed—

"First.—'The fleet bore up in the order prescribed.'

"Second.—He omits to say that they anchored with a chain cable out of the stern port!

"At page 579.—'The *Impregnable* and *Albion* were to have taken their stations.' But leave we the ships to fight their own battles.

"The frigates had no places in action, but were to take up the gaps. And our captain soon found one to suit, running out his warps to the very rocks under the muzzles of the enemy's guns; the saucy (very saucy, indeed) *Granicus* took up her position between the Flag and *Superb*, but with a sort of filial tenderness to the latter.

"To say how we fought, I leave to the *Superb*, and we know how beautifully she did her work. How many shot were thrown away, the powder expended must tell; and there too, as to the relative proportions of powder to shot, the historian could have obtained satisfactory information.

"Of the practice of steady, distinct firing, we must ask the poor unfortunate turbans, who so often deserted their ladies, falling headlong between the muzzles of their long guns, for they loaded, apparently, by loose powder, or by cartridge, placed in the chamber of the gun by ladle. Indeed, I never saw the shot put in! By this, our distance (which we were afterwards informed was fifty-six yards) may easily be imagined. We suffered; but from some kind friend outside, we were pricked up in a manner not agreeable to our gallant captain, and he sent him a bit of his mind.

"The tumble of the batteries—originally four beautifully symmetric tiers—the fall of the light-house and its works—soon presented a scene of destruction which scarce reminded one of such works; and the casemates, which still harassed us, were only distinguishable by the transmitted illumination, produced by the enemy's frigates, arsenals, and magazines, blazing and alternately exploding within the mole. We had little time for admiration or reflection, for our orders to select special mischievous guns, which dealt more deadly destruction towards the conclusion of the action, kept our attention painfully on the alert; and when at length the orders to haul out came, it was with a painful feeling that we did so, hoping to make terms only at the muzzles of our guns. I know not how it is, but this action seemed to excite me differently to any other; there was an absence of that vicious enthusiasm between ship and ship, we felt that our cause was better, and still we felt that they were not a match for the wooden walls of old England.

"About two o'clock, I think, we got anchored. But such a finale! Our enemy had been earthly, but now a power under which the firmest heart quails visited us. Crippled and exhausted, with light airs we had to tow out. Thunder, forked lightnings, and such a deluge of rain, as I never before or since witnessed, poured upon us—sight being almost taken away by the quick, succeeding flashes, which were painfully reflected on the water-deluged deck, which the scuppers were inadequate to relieve. Providentially this was unattended by wind, or fine fleet would, before dawn, have been dismasted."

Here is a sailor's tale, told in order to show how bad it is to send a boy into the navy merely because he seems too rough for other occupations:—

"Such was young C., my old schoolfellow here. I remember well that his wildness, coarseness, and bullying disposition, were especially insisted on as reasons for sending him into the navy. He is dead! Hear his short career, and think what you and I, perhaps, in a remote degree, have to answer for. We did meet only to exchange stories, for I prevented his joining the *Cleopatra*. He has left no friends—at this day—to bewail him, and no one but the assembled company can know his name. I am therefore free to tell his short career. He left the school some few weeks after me, and en-

tered the *Busy*. We met at Halifax, and he was so unhappy that he would have joined anything to get out of that ship. No one would have him! I had heard his whole tale from himself!—it was no secret—and I told him 'he could not join us, or I would leave.' He confessed all, and I shudered to think of the 'sailor boys' you send us. He grossly insulted one of the crew; you all know he would have been a bully here—but he had his masters, on whom he fawned. Well, he used language that is not permitted in any respectable vessel. The man—a captain of the maintop—replied, 'No more than you, sir.' He complained that he had been insulted and struck by the man, and, in self-defence, he had been compelled to strike him—a fly kicking an elephant! The first-lieutenant heard the man's defence; said, 'he was very sorry, but he could not doubt the word of an officer.' The captain was guided by the report of the first-lieutenant. It was *death* by the naval law!—but they would then lose a good man. Yet this good man's character did not help him! He was ordered for punishment. Hear the character of the man. He knew his innocence—he knew the value, as he fondly imagined, of his character, and he was led to believe that he could not be punished. The captain sent for Mr. C.—into the cabin, questioned him in private, and added—

"Well, sir, you have now a chance of making your character in this ship, by begging that man off before punishment is actually inflicted. You have admitted enough, in my mind, to satisfy me that some unaccountable quarrel, reducing you to his level, or possibly beneath him, is at the bottom of this. My duty is very painful; you only can relieve me—be resolved. Tell the truth, sir. No one will think more highly of you than myself. I shall defer punishment until seven bells."

"That man could have brought three witnesses to prove his entire innocence, by word or deed. They were ready to come forward at the proper moment. He disdained their officious interposition—nothing but the word of this officer could, in his estimation, purge him from so foul a charge. The hands were turned up—the customary forms gone through—C. was silent!—the article of war was read—and he was asked if he had anything to say.

"With your permission, sir, one word. You all know I am innocent. God help Mr. C.—" and he sprang overboard.

"The *Busy* went to sea, and was never heard of; it was supposed founded. Seamen are superstitious; the name of *Busy* will ever thrill the nerves of all who knew that boy and her fate. I am superstitious enough to imagine that her fate is interwoven with his. Was it a just retribution even for blinded judgment? I was told it was not the intention to flog that man, but to refer it to a court-martial, and disgrace the officer. Fate decreed otherwise."

In commenting on this story, Howard Brenton gives his advice about boys being sent to sea:—

"Naval officers belong to no scale of society, as to family blood or interest. If an officer is correct, gentlemanly, and is fortunately placed, he may outstrip all his titled competitors. We have this plainly before us in the cases of many of our greatest ornaments."

"In proposing to send a boy into the navy, what you are bound to observe is, what is the habit or disposition of the boy. No iron-bound bully is wanted in the navy—no physical strength. Nelson and Collingwood were not of this breed. Put it to yourself first—How will this boy push his way? Has he any talent to command him? Is he chivalrously bent to devote himself, his life and fortunes, without hope beyond advancement, to fight his country's battles? Is his temper such that he can stand reproof—unmerited reproof—with abiding patience until his justification is worked out, and his martyrdom crowned by the most generous confidence and support of his captain? Is he above provocation? Can he stand the close, oppressive reasoning of an unprincipled superior, who deter-

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mines to rid himself of one who stands in the way of a friend? Can he eventually fall back on a competence, and not become an intolerable burthen to his family and to society, should he dislike the profession? If he is proof against these, send him to take his chance of being 'food for powder.'

What we have quoted is worthy of the character for shrewdness which the author possesses. And now for a specimen of matter in a very different strain. The first introduction of Ellen Percy, ultimately Mrs. Howard Brenton, is after this fashion:—

"When I did go home, it was to the Rectory of Ashdown Vale, some fifteen or twenty miles from London. Here my mother, sister Charlotte, and Ellen Percy, were collected; the Rector, his wife (my aunt), and a brat cousin, Fanny Howard.

"Ellen Percy was my guardian angel; she was supposed to be about eighteen, and, by her fortune, and understood position, was Chancellor of the Exchequer, if not Prime Minister, in our household. Charlotte was six—Fanny, five—I was eight—my very pretty nurse, and servant to Ellen, Louisa Hardy, eighteen—her father, the butler, about forty-eight.

"When I think upon this portion of my life, it seems to have been all summer. When I first entered upon it, after the coldness and harshness of school, I almost feared to enjoy it; it seemed too exquisitely happy. Often and often did I lean out of my casement of a morning, whilst the blackbird was fretting the summer jennetin with his golden bill, and almost thank God for the friends whom he had given me, for the beauty of the world in which he had placed me. A kind of shame withheld my words. It was now that I began to feel that Ellen Percy was something more to me than my sister or my cousin, or even than my mother, whose cold shyness and melancholy bearing towards me were, by a kind of tacit consent, never alluded to amongst us. My young guardian was very beautiful; her hair was of a golden chestnut colour, and seemed to have entangled amongst it a perpetual sunlight; she was of middle height, and of an exquisite figure, to which a bust, a little smaller than is usual in English women, gave an air of exceeding delicacy. Her arms were suffused with a faint rosy glister, and blushed almost as readily as her face. She never said she loved me; but sometimes, in our summer afternoon rambles, when I sat at her feet, sorting the flowers which we had gathered, she would gaze at me with such deep, earnest eyes, that I would fling my arms about her neck, and draw her head down to mine, in a burst of irresistible affection. But always, after I had done this, she would seem full of painful thought, and be a little severe to me."

Pretty well this for a boy of eight! We have marked also some curious passages of fine writing, such as the description of the shot tower over in the Borough:—

"My eyes fell on a shot tower on the Southwark side of the bridge, and which stood in the night air like a strong man, dark, and stern, and full of passion. I had heard that the work in that shot tower never ceased day nor night, and it was fine to remember, now that it was long past midnight and all the great city around me was asleep, that the molten metal still rushed through that giant mass, quick, and fiery; hot as the blood of passion through the veins of a woman of the South. So I leaned on the parapet of the bridge and gazed on the dark tower, and marked the summer lightnings coming forth to it in all their beauty from the clouds, like the handmaidens to an eastern king."

This is a kind of writing unaccountably different from that of Sir Edward Belcher's scientific works, the readers of which may sometimes, perhaps, have had cause to complain of the dry and severe style in which he has described his naval surveys and narrated his exploring voyages.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*On the State of Society in France before the Revolution of 1789, and on the Causes which led to that Event.* By Alexis de Tocqueville. Translated by Henry Reeve. Murray.

*Kars and our Captivity in Russia.* By Colonel Atwell Lake, C.B. Bentley.

*Descriptive Dictionary of the Indian Islands and adjacent Countries.* By John Crawfurd, F.R.S. Bradbury and Evans.

*Memoirs of Frederick Perthes; or, Literary, Religious, and Political Life in Germany from 1789 to 1843.* From the German of Clement Theodore Perthes, Professor of Law in the University of Bonn. 2 vols. Constable and Co.

*Σπουδαίων Τούρκων Ιστορία της Ελληνικῆς Επαναστάσεως.* Vol. III. Williams and Norgate.

*Bothwell: a Poem.* In Six Parts. By W. Edmondstone Ayton, D.C.L. Blackwood and Sons.

*The Language of Specifications of Letters Patent for Inventions.* By John Macgregor, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law. Benning and Co.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and of the Museum of Practical Geology. Mining Records.* Mineral Statistics for 1855. By Robert Hunt, F.R.S. Longman and Co.

*The Churches of Essex Architecturally Described and Illustrated.* Part IV. By G. Buckler. Bell and Daldy.

*Tracings of Iceland and the Faroe Islands.* By Robert Chambers, W. and R. Chambers.

*Formulae of Nautical Astronomy.* By Capt. Shadwell, R.N. C.B. Potter.

*Horatio Howard Brenton: a Naval Novel.* By Capt. Sir Edward Belcher, R.N., C.B. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

*The Quadrupon; or, a Lover's Adventures in Louisiana.* By Capt. Mayne Reid. 3 vols. Hyde.

*Zuriel's Grandchild: a Novel.* By R. V. M. Sparling. 3 vols. Newby.

*The Desorted Wife.* By Mrs. Southworth. C. H. Clarke.

*Drafts for Acceptance.* By George Raymond, Author of 'Memoirs of Elliston.' Routledge and Co.

A WORK on the state of the French nation previous to the first Revolution, by M. Alexis de Tocqueville, the celebrated author of Democracy in America, the historian of the reigns of Louis XIV. and Louis XV., and an active sharer in the events of 1848, is one the importance of which can scarcely be overrated. Whether the ability and patience of research which distinguishes the writer be considered, or the depth and range of his philosophy, a most valuable addition has been made both to history and to political science. Mr. Reeve, the translator of the former work, 'Democracy in America,' has again devoted himself to the task of naturalizing these researches amongst us; and admirably his labours appear to have been accomplished.

In 1820, Mr. Crawfurd published The History of the Indian Archipelago, a work which communicated much valuable information about regions not then so well known as they are now to English travellers, merchants, or statesmen. After some years' further acquaintance with the East, and much study of the subject, Mr. Crawfurd has rewritten his book on a greatly extended scale, and in the form of a Dictionary, the alphabetical arrangement being well adapted for a subject so multifarious as a general description of the Indian and Philippine Archipelago. Some of the articles are brief and meagre from the absence of accurate information as to the places, but on many of the subjects the author's personal knowledge and experience have enabled him to give most valuable and authentic reports. Of Singapore, for example, where Mr. Crawfurd long held an official appointment, a full account is given, descriptive, historical, and statistical. Of the Kingdom of Siam also, with which our political and commercial relations are likely to assume before long a new importance, the book presents ample notices. The Dictionary contains a vast amount of useful and curious information in a form most convenient for study and reference. A map of the Indian Archipelago is prefixed to the volume.

Frederick Perthes, it may be necessary to inform many of our readers, was a distinguished publisher at Hamburg, as much remarkable for his personal worth as for his professional eminence. His letters and memoirs present many points of instruction and counsel on the affairs of common business, while affording striking glimpses of the social life of Germany during an eventful period of its history. The biography forms three volumes in the original German, and the condensation into two by the translator is effected only by the omission of details

of a temporary and local character, and less likely to interest English readers. Mrs. Austin, in her Sketches of German Life from 1760 to 1814, has referred to these Memoirs, as "affording a perfect insight, not only into the recesses of German life in these troublous times, but into the very hearts and minds of the actors and sufferers."

The third volume of Tricoupi's History of the Greek Revolution continues the narrative from the siege of Messalonghi down to the year 1826. The events of that memorable period are related with much spirit by the historian, and the record of the political feelings and movements of Russia and of the Western Powers of Europe with regard to Greece and Turkey, will be read with great interest at the present time. Some of the statesmen and diplomats of our day would do well to study the papers and speeches of Νικηφόρος, and Μετροπίδης, and Καστελρήγος, and Καννίβης, as referred to and commented on by M. Tricoupi. The modern Greek, or Neo-Hellenic dialect, in which the history is written, we may add, offers no difficulty to those who can read Thucydides or Xenophon.

Bothwell, which has reached us too late for more than passing mention this week, will undoubtedly be the poem of this year, as 'Maud' was of the last. A hasty glance has satisfied us that the high expectations raised by Professor Ayton's 'Lays' will not be disappointed.

On the important and difficult department of law, the language of specifications of letters patent for invention, a special treatise, embracing notices of the authorities and decisions in recent cases, will be welcome to the profession as well as useful to the general public. Mr. Macgregor has been trained in a good school for this work, having formerly been in the office of Mr. William H. Hindmarsh, whose learning and skill in patent law are well known. This treatise appears to be compiled with great care, and the comments on the cases and decisions show the writer's mastery of the principles, as well as his acquaintance with the facts of the subject.

In the Memoirs of the Geological Survey and Museum of Practical Geology, Department of Mining Records, Mr. Hunt, the Keeper of the Records, has published the report of the mineral statistics of Great Britain and Ireland for 1855, comprising a mass of authentic information which could only have been brought together by this national institution, and presented in a form available for scientific reference, as well as for directing enterprise and capital into profitable contact with the mineral wealth and resources of the country.

Part IV. of the Churches of Essex, architecturally described and illustrated by Mr. George Buckler, contains notices of Ingatestone and Colchester.

Those who attended the Geological Section at the meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, last year, must have been much gratified by the brief account given by Mr. R. Chambers, of some of the phenomena witnessed by him in the neighbourhood of Hecla and the Geysers. In the tracings of his recent trip to Iceland and the Faroe Islands, a full description of these volcanic scenes is given, with a most interesting narrative of his journey and record of his observations, in which shrewd remarks on the customs and manners of the people are interspersed with graphic and scientific descriptions of the islands and their scenery.

The Formulae of Navigation and Practical Astronomy, by Captain Shadwell, R.N., form an admirable manual for professional students and for practical use. The solution of the problems commonly used in navigation is too often made to depend on empirical rules, provided for the benefit of those who are entirely destitute of mathematical knowledge. It is well to have these rules, but in the present advancement of education in other departments, every young student of navigation ought to be ambitious of understanding the *rationales* of the problems, and of working them by scientific system instead of by arbitrary rules. There are excellent works for training of this sort, but in the Formulae of Captain Shadwell will be found a convenient summary of the knowledge

requisite for working all the ordinary problems in navigation, and a few others which are occasionally useful to the nautical astronomer. The Formulae, which are printed on cards compactly packed in a small pocket case, will serve as a useful *guide-memoire* on board ship, and a valuable educational manual for nautical lessons and exercises.

In stirring narrative, impassioned feeling, and graphic style, the Quadroon is the novel of the season. Coming after 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and the cloud of resulting literature, there was risk of a new tale of slave lands proving a dull affair. But in the hands of Captain Mayne Reid the subject appears fresh and romantic, and the reader becomes deeply interested in the tale. On the explosion of one of the river steamers, a young Englishman saves the life of a fair young Creole, the owner of a plantation on the banks of the Mississippi. Wounded during the escape from the wreck, he is detained for a time as an invalid on the estate of Eugénie the Creole, in whose bosom gratitude and pity soon glowed into deep love. But, meanwhile, the heart of the young stranger was lost to one still lovelier, Aurora, a quadroon, the attendant and the slave of Eugénie. The perplexities of this cross love, and the troubles that beset Eugénie, whose estate was in the power of a treacherous guardian, furnish abundant incidents for the story. The generosity of the Creole in aiding Edward to gain Aurora, after the breaking up of the estate, is a fine feature of the tale, though her disguise, as a young Creole gentleman, remaining so long undiscovered, is a strangely improbable contrivance. But it is not on account of the story that the work is remarkable, so much as for the graphic descriptions of the scenery of the Southern States. In all Captain Mayne Reid's writings prominence is given to natural history, his scientific acquaintance with which gives him great advantage. No writer since Humboldt has given more glowing descriptions of the forest and river scenery of the New World.

The Deserted Wife is an American tale, presenting incidents and illustrating characters common to all countries, but with details of national locality and life which may render the book more interesting to English readers.

Mr. Raymond's Drafts for Acceptance consist of a medley of papers on most miscellaneous subjects, with few of which the reader will fail to be interested. Few books at present on the railway stalls will better beguile the tedium of a journey or amuse some leisure hours at the sea-side.

#### New Editions.

*Professor Wilson's Works*.—Vol. V. *Essays, Critical and Imaginative*. Vol. I. Blackwood and Sons. *Black's Picturesque Tourist to Scotland*. Twelfth Edition. A. and C. Black.

*Tales of College Life*. By Cathbert Bede, B.A., Author of 'Verdant Green.' C. H. Clarke.

*Canada: Its Advantage and Disadvantage to Settlers*. Second Edition. By John Millar Grant. Montreal: Algar and Street.

In the series of the collected works of Professor Wilson, the first volume of essays, critical and imaginative, contains a variety of papers contributed at various times to 'Blackwood's Magazine,' and not included in the 'Recreations of Christopher North,' which are to be reprinted in the present edition of his works. Among the essays in this volume, there are some of Wilson's finest pieces in a variety of styles, such as the fervid love and glowing sketches of nature in the article on Streams, the exuberant humour of the notice of Mr. Dodd's Cookery Book, and the sound critical judgment about our great English satirists, in the opening pages of the review of the *Man of Ton*. These few pages are equal to anything that Wilson ever wrote in literary criticism.

The new edition of Black's Picturesque Tourist of Scotland appears opportunely, the season having arrived of the great annual rush to the north. Scottish tourists wishing a guide-book, copious and well arranged, serviceable and practical, will do well to procure Black's Picturesque Tourist. It contains excellent descriptions of all the localities worthy of being visited, with ample directions on

every matter of detail on which strangers in the country are likely to seek information. The book is illustrated with numerous engravings, and contains maps, plans, and itineraries.

Mr. Grant's pamphlet contains useful hints respecting the climate, soil, and social condition of the Canadian settlements, where emigrants from the old country are likely to find their way. It is a very good tract to put into the hands of labourers, domestics, or others making inquiries about this field of emigration.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*Pius IX. and Lord Palmerston*. By the Count de Montalembert. Translated by permission, and Revised by the Author. Dolman.

*Usurers and Ryots: being an Answer to the Question, 'Why does not India produce more Cotton?'* By an Indian Civil Servant. Smith, Elder, and Co.

*Plan for a Suspension Pier or Jetty at Madras*. By John Henry Taylor, commanding the *Trafalgar* East India man. Bosworth and Harrison.

*The Traveller and Emigrant's Handbook to Canada and the North-West States of America*. By Edward H. Hill.

*The Reconciliation of Geological Phenomena with Divine Revelation*. Bosworth and Harrison.

*Rules and Reasons for the better Regulation of the Laws between Masters and Servants*. Hatchards.

*A Cyclopaedia of Female Biography*. Edited by H. G. Alianor. Part II. Groomebridge and Sons.

*Chambers' History of the Russian War*. Part XI. W. and R. Chambers.

*Text-Book of Scripture Geography. With a Map*. W. and R. Chambers.

*The Law Magazine and Law Review; or, Quarterly Journal of Jurisprudence* for August, 1856. Butterworths.

*Painting with both Hands; or, the Adoption of the Principle of the Stereoscope in Art as a Means to Binocular Pictures*. By John Long. Chapman and Hall.

A SENTENCE spoken by Lord Palmerston in the British Parliament has given dire offence to the Count de Montalembert and other worshippers of Papal power. The offending words were, that "the Holy City was never better governed than during the absence of the Pope, who cannot maintain himself at Rome without the assistance of a foreign power." In a very vehement appeal to Lord Palmerston, published in 'Le Correspondant' of June 25th, and now translated with the author's revision, the charge of the Holy City being badly governed is thus met:—"Are you not aware of the series of edicts which has followed the *motu proprio* of 12th September, 1849? Has he not successively organized a Council of Ministers, of which three out of five are laymen; a Council of State, of which the majority is equally lay, and of which two members only are, by law, ecclesiastics; a Consulta of Finances, which is a body nearly elective, of which three-fourths are taken from the candidates elected by the provincial councils; a provincial organization, based upon general councils indirectly elective, and composed of members submitted to the choice of Government by the municipal councils; a communal organization, in which the municipal councils are directly elected by the heaviest assessed of each community, and in which the magistrates—who discharge the functions of our mayors and deputies—cannot be chosen by the Government except from the individuals presented by the council? Is all that nothing? How strange that with all this excellent machinery the people still call for good government and common liberty! But the Count knows that since 1850, when the edicts organizing these councils were promulgated, the abuses of the government at Rome, as at Naples, have greatly increased. It is only among the Jesuits and the ultramontane papists that these sentiments of exultation over oppressed patriotism and religion find sympathy. In England, there are Catholics as well as Protestants who know how to separate the theory of the spiritual authority from the practice of secular tyranny in the hands of the Pope, and who do not agree with the Count de Montalembert in denouncing "the lamentable blindness of M. de Cavour" and the senseless animosity of Lord Palmerston."

The writer of the pamphlet on Usurers and Ryots affirms that the real obstacle to the rapid progress of India, as a cotton producing country, lies in the burdens under which the Ryots or cultivators groan, at the hands of usurers and capitalists. In vain the Indian Government lowers the

land assessment, if the poor Ryot has an overwhelming debt, handed down, perhaps, from his ancestors. A fairly administered system of insolvency laws is declared to be an essential step towards improvement. The political as well as commercial results of the liberation of the hopelessly encumbered estates can scarcely be overrated. The productive resources of India would then leave English capitalists little room for hesitation about setting up machinery for cleaning and packing the raw material, and constructing railways for its transmission to the coast.

Captain Taylor's plan for a suspension pier, or jetty, at Madras, the formidable surf of which is well known to all Indians, is to substitute for the usual system of piers or piles, a succession of stout strong masts, like those of a ship on the shears in ordinary use in Her Majesty's dock-yards, offering little resistance to the waves, yet planted deep enough in the sand to give firmness and security to a lofty platform suspended by rigging or wire-rope. The proposed length of the masts would give about sixty or sixty-five feet above the level of the water, and allow for fifteen in the sand or sea bottom. Ten such masts would form, with the connecting suspension chains and planks, a pier of 800 or 1000 feet in length. The plan is ingenious, and original in application if not in principle. The failure of all attempts hitherto to form a permanent pier or breakwater at Madras may gain consideration for Captain Taylor's proposal, of the details of which a clear and interesting description, with an illustrative plan, is given in his pamphlet.

The Handbook for Emigrants to Canada, by Mr. Edward Hall, now of Chicago, formerly of Newcastle-on-Tyne, gives the experience of an eight years' residence in North America, with a selection of matter from the best authorities, including the prize essays published last year. It is a useful little manual, as containing authentic and recent reports on Canada and Canadian emigration.

The reconciliation of geological phenomena with Divine revelation is not within the compass of a writer who believes that the coal beds were formed after the Noachian deluge. "We are told that at the deluge the fountains of the great deep were broken up. The first effect of an universal deluge would be to sweep away the antediluvian forests, which would float about in immense drifts, till some of them, grounding, would be buried under the vast accumulations of stony matter which the depths of the earth would pour forth, as one after another the fountains of the great deep were broken up. For it is a fact, which has been overlooked by modern geologists, that all the great coal deposits lie in separate basins, which are quite independent of each other, though all lying between the old red sandstone which is beneath the coal-seams, and the new red sandstone which is above them."

A very sensible and practical little pamphlet has been published on what has been called, not without reason, 'the greatest plague of life,' the management of domestic servants. Complaints on the subject are incessant, but no one sees or says what can be done to remedy admitted evils. Any interference by public authority is supposed to be inadmissible, as contrary to the usages and customs of a free country in this free-trade age. But since the law has stepped in to interfere with cabmen, and boatmen, and porters, and other labourers, there is no reason why the relations of masters and servants should not be brought under some more fixed regulations. The writer of this pamphlet suggests certain rules as to certificates issued from recognised registers or offices, these offices being under public control, and having clerks with defined authority, and paid by a small rate, which householders would readily pay for so obvious an advantage. Apart from the proposals connected with this system of registration, the pamphlet, which is addressed to masters and employers, contains useful suggestions for lessening the evils of the present system or no-system.

Like most of the manuals in Chambers' Educational Series, the Text-Book of Scripture Geography has been compiled with great care, and contains

useful and accurate information. This little volume may be used as a companion-book to the School Map of Palestine, by the same publishers; or, as it contains a map, it is suited for general use in classes or in families. An account is given of the geography of all the countries mentioned in the Bible, or referred to in sacred history.

The August number of the Law Magazine and Law Review, besides the usual reports and other matter valuable to professional men, contains an unusual number of able articles on subjects of general interest:—Peerges for Life; Appellate Judicature; American Mob Law; the Palmer Case Evidence; the Dye Sombra Case; Dunn's Case; the Divorce Bill; the Proposed Minister of Public Justice; papers on Probate of Wills, and on County Courts; the Proceedings of the Society for Promoting the Amendment of the Law; and a Review of Lord Cockburn's Memorials of His Time. Here is a list of contents that may attract readers of all tastes and professions, though presented on the cover of a professional journal. The proceedings of the Law Amendment Society are regularly reported in the 'Law Magazine,' and this number presents an acceptable survey of the legal history of the past parliamentary session, with notices of the subjects to which the attention of this useful Society is now chiefly directed.

Mr. Lone, an ingenious speculator, who announces himself as a lawyer's clerk, beginning with the phenomena of the stereoscope, asserts that great artists have contrived to manage the lines of their pictures so as, by certain breaks and indeterminateness, to give a confused outline to the spectator, something like that afforded by the combination of the two images formed on the retina of each eye of an observer. Turner he cites as an example of an artist who suggested the verity of natural things, simply because he was nearest to the double lines of nature. The theory he then proceeds to offer is this—that ambidextrous or two-handed painting will realize in art also binocular or two-eyed pictures. But inasmuch as in the stereoscope we have two distinct pictures, whereas, in Turner's or any other modern painting, only one object is presented, the difficulty arises—how are we to carry out this theory? Is there to be one picture painted by the right hand as seen by the right eye, and another painted by the left hand as seen by the left eye—the two to be combined, or, as the writer says, "married," as in the stereoscope; or, is every object in a picture to be represented by a double outline? This the writer candidly says he does not attempt to explain; he only asserts the principle of duality in all pictures seen by both eyes, and suggests that students should be taught to draw with both hands to correspond. The idea, though forcibly thrown out, it still crude enough; we think, however, that the writer is entitled to some praise for his ingenuity, whatever be the result of his proposal.

#### List of New Books.

- Ahn's Latin Grammar, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
- A Kempis' Imitation of Christ, by Th. Chalmers, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Aytoun's (W. E.) Bothwell, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
- Baldwin's (W.) Law of Mines, 2nd Edition, 8vo, cloth, £1 4s.
- Banbury's (F.) Library: Thierry's Norman Conquest, Vol. 2, 3s. 6d.
- Brougham's (E.) On Clubmen, 8vo, cloth, 4s.
- Brooks' Pitcher, square, cloth, 6s.
- Brougham's Works, Vol. VIL, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
- Bruce's (J.) Scenes and Sights in the East, crown 8vo, cloth, 5s.
- Capeau's (C.) Helen Lincoln, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Copley's Laws and Practice of Whist, crown 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Conolly's (J.) Treatment of the Insane, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
- Conrad's (F.) Elements of Christianity, post 8vo, sewed, 2s.
- Dana's Seaside, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
- De Tocqueville's France, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
- Denniston's Duke of Urbino, 3 vols. 8vo, cloth, reduced, £1 1s.
- Dod's (S. O.) Harp taken from the Willows, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
- Dower's General Atlas, 4to, half morocco, £1 1s.
- Elliotson's Human Physiology, 8vo, cloth, reduced, 10s. 6d.
- Euston, by E. L. A. Berwick, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, £1 1s. 6d.
- Giffard's (J. W.) L'Histoire et les Principes du Commerce, 18mo, 2s.
- Grove's (G.) Encyclopaedia, 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
- Hardy's (R. W. H.) Properties of Light, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
- Hook's (T.) Gurney Married, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
- Moratio Howard, by Capt. Sir E. Belcher, 6 vols. post 8vo, £1 1s. 6d.
- Rautington's (W.) Works, 6 vols. 8vo, cloth, £2.
- Illustrated Geology for Schools, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
- Irving's Life of Washington, Vol. III., 12mo, boards, 2s. 6d.
- Jackson's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry, 7th edition, 6s. 6d.
- John's (Rev. J.) Truth of the Christian Religion, facs. 8vo, 7s. 6d.
- Larcher's Handbook of Natural Philosophy, Electricity &c., cl. 5s.
- Lethbridge's (Rev. J. W.) Works, the Glory of Man, 12mo, 2s.
- Little Lytchett's, square, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Linton's (Rev. E. A.) Hampton Lectures, 1856, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.

- Lynch's (T. T.) Rivulet, 2nd edition, 32mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Macart's (W.) Food and its Adulterations, 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
- Pest and the Paddock, 2nd edition, post 8vo, sewed, 3s. 6d.
- Practical Swiss Guide, facs., cloth, 2nd edition, 2s. 6d.
- Read's (C.) It is Never too Late to Mend, 3 vols. 8vo, £1 1s. 6d.
- Robertson's (Rev. F. W.) Sermons, 1st Series, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
- Shakespeare, by Singer, Vol. VIII., facs., cloth, 6s.
- Traice's (W. H. J.) Handbook of Mechanics' Institutions, 8vo, 2s.
- Turnbull's (J.) on Disorders of the Stomach, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
- Wilson's (Prof.) Works, Vol. V., post 8vo, cloth, 6s.

as a Norseman he had a natural jealousy of the attempt to represent the Celts as rivalling or excelling the ancient poets of Scandinavia. In the course of the discussion many volunteer communications of Highland poetry were furnished, some of them not more free from question than Macpherson's own; while assertions were made, and affidavits sworn, more remarkable for their energy and confidence than for their accuracy and precision. The Highland Society then took up the inquiry. But their report in 1805 did not throw much light on the matter, and was about as unsatisfactory as reports in general are found to be. Neither was the question settled by the posthumous publication of the Gaelic Ossian from Macpherson's repositories, no ancient MS. having yet been forthcoming, and his opponents alleging confidently that Macpherson's Gaelic was translated from the English, wherever it was not stolen or borrowed from Irish poems. After much waste of ink, anger, and acrimony, the agitation gradually subsided. The out-and-out defenders of Macpherson's Ossian became few in number, and, strange to say, were more easily found among the critics of the continent than among those at home. The claims of the Irish were not satisfactorily answered, and, by a general feeling elsewhere, bystanders came to adopt a sort of compromise between the extreme views of the original disputants. In the course of the investigations which took place under the auspices of the Highland Society, reference was made to the several Gaelic manuscripts as existing in the Highlands, or in the possession of parties connected with Scotland. It is very probable, if not quite certain, that such manuscripts existed, though it is difficult to place implicit confidence in the loose accounts that are given of their contents. But the most important manuscript which was actually seen by impartial persons, is the one to which I have already alluded, and which is referred to in the report of the Highland Society. It was got by them from Mr. John Mackenzie, secretary to the Highland Society of London, who was one of Mr. Macpherson's executors. It is a collection of poems which appears to have belonged to Mr. James M'Gregor, Dean of Lismore, and an account of it is given by Dr. Donald Smith in the appendix to the Highland Society's report. I cannot help saying, however, that that account is extremely imperfect, and does not appear to have been very ingenious, as it keeps out of view several matters that would not have advanced the opinions which Dr. Smith entertained on the question in dispute. The manuscript is now the property of the Advocates' Library, and has been carefully examined by a gentleman of high attainments as a Celtic scholar—the Rev. Mr. M'Lauchlan, of the Free Gaelic Church in Edinburgh—and who, I am certain, has given the result of his examination with a strict regard to truth and fairness. The MS. has also been carefully inspected by Mr. David Laing. It is now certain, that the Ossianic poems, as they stand in this MS., show that they were composed at least after the time of St. Patrick, and that, according to them, Fingal and his friends were Irish and not Scotch. I shall read as a specimen of these poems in the MS., the following extract given by Mr. M'Lauchlan:—

"Ossian the son of Fingal said—  
Tell me, Patrick, the honour which belongs to us,  
Do the Fingallians of Ireland enjoy the happy heaven?  
I tell thee assuredly, Ossian, of bold deeds,  
That neither thy father, nor Gaul, nor Oscar, are in heaven.  
Sad is thy tale to me, O Priest,  
I was worshipping God, and that the Fingallians of Ireland  
should be excluded from heaven."

If it not well for thee to be blessed thyself,  
Although Caoil, and Oscar, and thy father should not  
share thy blessedness?

I care little for any blessedness above,  
Unless shared with Caoil, and Oscar, and my father.  
Better for thee to see the countenance of the Son of Heaven,  
Than that thou shouldst possess all the gold in the world."

There can be no doubt that some such lines as those we have now quoted were traditionally current in the Highlands. The prayers of Ossian, orally collected by Mr. Hill and others, are of a similar character. But here the lines are found in a MS.—the "most valuable" MS. which the

Highland Society possessed—the only Scotch MS. that had any bearing on the question. The poem or dialogue between Ossian and St. Patrick here given from the Scotch MS., or some similar one, has long been well known in Ireland. A translation, nearly corresponding with it, was given in Lady Morgan's 'Wild Irish Girl' in 1806; and a similar poem is to be found in a volume lately published by the Ossianic Society of Dublin. Miss Brooke's collection also contains similar colloquies, and the subject seems to have been a favourite one. Mr. M'Lauchlan also points out that several of the Ossianic poems in the Dean of Lismore's MS. relate to events considered historical, and of which the scene occurs in Ireland. It is a singular, but I believe undoubted fact, that poems on the battle of Gabhra, which must be considered as of Irish origin, have been current in the Highlands until a very late period. They have probably been handed down partly by oral tradition, but possibly, also, by occasional recurrence to written copies. In the MS. now noticed, Mr. M'Lauchlan points out several historical incidents which agree with those in Macpherson's Ossian. Reviewing now the whole subject, I think that the following propositions may be considered to contain correct results in reference to the subject of this controversy. 1st, The Celtic language of Ireland, and that of the Scottish Highlands, is one and the same; and there is the strongest probability that, with various degrees of Scandinavian, Teutonic, or other foreign admixture, the two races are identical. 2nd, Whatever may have been the early state of the Scottish Highlands, it is certain that, at least from the introduction of Christianity, Ireland possessed a high degree of learning and civilisation. 3rd, The Irish language from the same early period was carefully cultivated, and continued to be preserved in purity; and elaborate forms of poetry or versification were invented and extensively practised by Irish writers. 4th, Mythical persons and legends, as well as historical characters and events, became from time to time the subjects of Irish poems, which were widely diffused and preserved, partly by tradition and partly also in a written form. 5th, While it is probable that from the earliest time much inter-communication passed between the adjoining coasts of the two countries, it is certain that, at later periods within the range of history, migrations took place from Ireland to Scotland, by which the learning and enlightenment of the sister island were conveyed to the Scottish shores; and in progress of time the poetry also of Ireland became current in Scotland, and was diffused in the Scottish Highlands by recitation, and latterly also was preserved in manuscript. 6th, At an early period within the records of history, whether from native character or from Irish instruction, the resident ecclesiastics of Scotland attained to eminence in learning and piety, and in all probability a considerable degree both of genius and of taste pervaded the Scottish Celts, though the evidence of any Scottish compositions of an ancient date is extremely defective, nor does any body of Celtic manuscripts exist in Scotland, while those which have been preserved in Ireland are numerous, and reach at least to the twelfth century. 7th, The poems published by Macpherson as the compositions of Ossian, whether in their English or their Gaelic form, are not genuine compositions as they stand, and are not entitled to any weight or authority in themselves, being partly fictitious, but partly, at the same time and to a considerable extent, copies or adaptations of Ossianic poetry current in the Highlands, and which also for the most part are well known in Ireland, and are preserved there in ancient manuscripts. 8th, Upon fairly weighing the evidence, I feel bound to express my opinion that the Ossianic poems, so far as original, ought to be considered generally as Irish compositions, relating to Irish personages, real or imaginary, and to Irish events, historical or legendary; but they indicate also a free communication between the two countries, and may be legitimately regarded by the Scottish Celts as a literature in which they also have a direct interest, written in their ancient tongue, recording the common traditions of the Gaelic tribes, and having

been long preserved and diffused in the Scottish Highlands, while if the date, or first commencement of these compositions, is of great antiquity, they belong as much to the ancestors of the Scottish as of the Irish Celts. 9th, There is still room for inquiry whether in the Scottish manuscript already adverted to, or in other trustworthy sources, Ossianic poetry cannot be pointed out which may be peculiar to Scotland, and of which no trace may be found either in Irish manuscripts or Irish tradition. Even in the later history of the Highlands there has been no want of poetical genius, and it would be wonderful if at former and happier periods the flame did not burn with yet brighter lustre. I shall conclude these hasty and imperfect remarks by pressing on my audience two special considerations that seem to me to deserve attention:— 1. I think that, with all his errors, we owe to James Macpherson a large debt of national and literary gratitude. It is difficult now to estimate precisely the degree of blame imputable to his conduct. Literary forgery, or to give it a milder name, literary embezzlement, was then so frequent as to be almost fashionable. A faithful editor was scarcely to be found. While Chatterton fabricated literary antiquities wholesale, Percy also brushed up his ballads that he might suit them to the public taste, and even the excellent Lord Hailes was found clipping the coin which he should have uttered in its original integrity. Celtic antiquities were little understood, and antiquarian or historical criticism was only in its infancy. Macpherson obviously admired the compositions which he actually met with in the Highlands; he saw their capabilities, and he put them forward in a captivating dress. If he varied, garbled, or interpolated them, so as to exalt the country in which he found them, and to which he himself belonged, some indulgence is due to a feeling of patriotism and a desire to raise the Scotch Highlands from the depressed condition to which they had then reduced. Perhaps he believed that Ossian was a Scotch hero and bard; that the Irish people were a mere Scotch colony, and that anything to the contrary was a modern corruption; and if his subsequent conduct was more seriously culpable, it may be traced as much to pride and pertinacity as to want of principle. Certain it is that Macpherson was the first who saw and showed us the merits of Gaelic poetry. Assuming these poems, so far as genuine, to be Irish compositions, they had been neglected by the Irish, and allowed to remain unpublished and unknown, until Macpherson brought them to light from Scottish sources. Then, no doubt, a variety of Irish writers came forward and asserted their claims. Miss Brooke, Walker, Hardiman, Drummond, O'Reilly, and other more recent writers, have done justice to their subject and to the genius of Ireland; but it should not be forgotten that it was the Scottish Ossian that drew them out; and, indeed, the Irish of the present day are not slow to acknowledge the superior zeal with which the Albanian Celts have done justice to the composition of the common language. 2. I take the liberty of connecting with this subject, an humble exhortation, which I address to myself as well as to others, to give a prominent place to the Celtic languages in the study of philology. The Celtic languages, there can be no doubt, will richly repay the attention of the most fastidious linguist, and will give and receive important illustrations when studied in connexion with the other members of that family.

Mr. HODGSON HINDE then read a paper 'On the condition of Lothian previous to its annexation to the kingdom of Scotland,' in which he gave an interesting account of the fluctuating fortunes of the province, while successively passing between the hands of the Scots and the Anglo-Saxons.

Mr. JOSEPH ROBERTSON gave a verbal notice of a parchment in the Register House, relating the violent eviction and cruel mutilation of a widow, who was a tenant in feu of the Knights Templars, and of the subsequent murder of her son, when in 1228, some years later, he appeared to claim his right; for which, and other deeds of oppression and violence, the Order was suppressed a few years afterwards.

On the adjournment of the Section, the Members repaired, at the invitation of the Lord Provost and Governors, to Heriot's Hospital.

At the Section of Antiquities, Dr. EDWIN Guest in the chair, Memoir by Dr. CHARLTON, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, was read, concerning a remarkable Runic inscription discovered during the recent repairs at Carlisle Cathedral. The inscription is in Scandinavian, and the memoir consisted of a critical analysis of the characters composing the legend.

A paper, by Mr. JOHN BUCHANAN, of Glasgow, was read, 'On the Barrier of Antoninus Pius, extending from the Shores of the Forth to the Clyde,' describing a journey which the author made along the entire line of the wall. The paper was chiefly occupied with minute topographical details.

Mr. JOHN STUART, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, read a communication 'On the Early Sculptured Monuments of Scotland.' The paper stated that these monuments might be considered the earliest existing expressions of the ideas, and the most genuine records of the skill of the early inhabitants of the country. He referred to the general use of pillars as memorials of events from the earliest period, and to the occurrence of such pillars in Scotland, both singly and in circular groups, as sepulchral memorials. The earliest notices furnished to us by our national historians serve only to show that the purpose and meaning of the sculptured pillars had been quite forgotten before the time when they were written. According to Boece, the hieroglyphic figures on them were borrowed from the Egyptians, and were used by the natives in place of letters; and both he and subsequent historians have assigned a Danish origin to many of them—an idea which is quite repudiated by the present race of Danish antiquaries. Mr. Stuart stated that the class of stones which he had presently in view comprised about 160 specimens. These consisted either of rude unshewn pillars, on which were sculptured various symbolic figures; of oblong dressed slabs, having crosses and other figures cut on their surface; and in a few cases of cruciform pillars with sculpture. Of those stones between the Dee and the Spey by far the larger number were rude pillars, having incised symbols without crosses; while in the country, on either side, the stones combined elaborate crosses with the symbols as well as with scenes of various kinds, exhibiting in many cases minute pictures of dress, armour, hunting, and other subjects. The symbols, except in two cases, were not found in the country south of the Forth, and were thus confined to the ancient country of the Picts. Mr. Stuart then pointed out various points of analogy and difference between the Scotch crosses and those in Ireland, Wales, and the Isle of Man. He adverted to the striking similarity of the style of ornament on the Scotch crosses to that in the ancient Irish and Saxon manuscripts, and drew the conclusion, that while there were many points common to the crosses of all the countries referred to, yet those in Scotland bore most strongly the impress of Irish art, as exhibited on remains of various sorts, ranging in point of date from the seventh to the eleventh century. Of the Scotch stones, above sixty have been found in some sort of connexion with ancient ecclesiastical sites, and most of those which have been dug out have shown traces of human sepulture. It appeared also that diggings had been made in several stone circles called 'druidical,' and that there also sepulchral deposits of various sorts had been discovered. It appeared also that the sculptured stones occurred in groups in various parts of the country, as well as the unsculptured pillars which were so often found in the shape of circles. The recent discovery of a sarcophagus at Govan had enabled us to trace the ornaments and figures of men and animals so common on the crosses to a use undoubtedly sepulchral; and the fact that some of the symbols had been found on a silver ornament dug from the sepulchral mound at Horne's Law, led to the same result.

In the evening a lecture was delivered by Dr.

J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE, 'On the Sculptures of Trajan's Column.' One side of the Hall was covered with elaborate drawings of the sculptures which adorn this pillar, illustrative of the campaign of Trajan in Asia. The sculpture on this column ascends in a spiral form, and the drawings have been executed on long strips of paper. The discourse, which was very interesting, consisted of an extempore description of the figures and scenes represented in the drawings. The sculpture was explained to be intended to represent pictorially the commencement and progress of Trajan in his famous war against the Dacians. It is full of details connected with the mode in which the Romans were wont to carry on war, and contained representations of the armour and habits of the Romans in the field of battle, most valuable to the classical student. The campaign is depicted from its very commencement. The first scene at the bottom of the column describes the Roman soldiers shipping their stores; others exhibit the army in the work of building camps; the Emperor sacrificing for the favour of Jupiter, and exhorting his cohorts; the Roman soldiers in conflict with the Dacians, with the various means then followed in defence and attack, &c. &c. The thorough manner in which the Romans appear to have built their substantial stone camps, and the care with which they constructed roads to assist their warlike operations, were minutely pointed out, and excited a lively interest.

The following day, Thursday, was devoted to a visit to Abbotsford, (where the housekeeper was more exacting of *bakshish* than proved either creditable or acceptable), and to the Tweedside Abbeys of Melrose, Dryburgh, and Kelso, but considerable disappointment was felt that no one undertook the office of leader, to describe the points of chief archaeological interest. Without some kind of scientific generalship these excursions degenerate into mere picnics.

On Friday papers were read in the Section of History, by MARK NAPIER, Esq., 'On the Progress and Prospects of Science in Scotland at the close of the sixteenth and commencement of the seventeenth century, as compared with the same at Cambridge a century later: with illustrations of several remarkable coincidences between the genius, the studies, and the discoveries of Napier of Merchiston and Sir Isaac Newton'; and by DR. GUEST 'On the Four Roman Ways.'

At the Section of Architecture, which met for the first time on this day, DR. WHEWELL, F.R.S., in the chair, an elaborate paper was read by JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., entitled, 'Sketch of Scottish Architecture, Ecclesiastical and Secular,' and MR. G. SCHARF, jun., read a paper 'On the Various Styles of Glass Painting (chiefly as accessory to the decoration of ecclesiastical structures)', illustrated by parallel examples in MSS., sculptures, and fresco decorations of the middle ages.

On the adjournment of the Sections, an excursion was made to Dirleton Castle, the seat of the Right Hon. R. C. Niobe Hamilton, M.P., where its history and architectural features and neighbouring ruins were described to the Members by Mr. Joseph Robertson.

In the evening a lecture was delivered by PROFESSOR SIMPSON, 'On the Vestiges of Roman Surgery and Medicine in Scotland and England,' and the Members were received at a *conversazione* by the Lord Provost and Mrs. Melville, at their house in Heriot-row.

On Saturday the Members assembled in the Section of Antiquities, and papers were read 'On the Antiquities of the Heathen Period, more especially as illustrated by specimens in the temporary Museum of the Institute,' by JOHN MITCHELL KEMBLE, Esq.; 'A Few Remarks on the Portraits of Lady Jane Gray,' by D. LAING, F.S.A. Scot.; and 'On the History of the Systematic Classification of Primeval Relics,' by A. HENRY RHIND, Esq., F.S.A.

In the afternoon, a visit was made to Holyrood Palace.

In the evening the Members were entertained at a *conversazione* given by Mr. Robert Chambers,

with a performance of ancient Scottish ballads, prefaced by arguments and comments of amusing literary and historical interest.

The Sections again assembled on Monday and Tuesday, when the following papers were read:—'On the Genealogy and Succession of the St. Clairs of Roslin,' by ALEXANDER SINCLAIR, Esq. 'On the Ancient Coronation Stone of Scotland,' by JOSEPH HUNTER, Esq., V.P.S. Ant. Lond. 'Observations on the Antiquities of Orkney and Shetland,' by Sir HENRY DRYDEN, Bart. 'On the Family of the Murays of Perde, in Fifeshire, and of Two of their Monuments in Dunfermline Abbey,' by W. DOWNING BRUCE, Esq., F.S.A. 'On the Analogy of Scottish and French Architecture,' by J. H. BURTON, Esq. 'On the Round Towers of Abernethy and Brechin,' by T. A. WYSE, Esq., M.D., F.S.A. Scot. 'Researches in the Ancient Subterranean Tombs at Kertch,' by DR. MACPHERSON. 'On Some of the Bearings of Ethnology in Connexion with Archaeological Science,' by J. BARNARD DAVIS, Esq.

On Monday evening a *conversazione* was held in the Edinburgh National Gallery, in which the temporary museum of the Institute was exhibited, comprising, amongst other objects, the following:—

A series of drawings illustrative of the sculptures on the Trajan Column. Drawing, on a large scale, of the Bayeux Tapestry. A series of thirty drawings in sepia of remains of the Roman Wall. Curious German crossbow, made of stag's horn. Ancient Irish harp. Coffin, from Camber-Kenneth Abbey. Curious bronze ewer and drinking-cups of the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries. Pottery dug up in Ayrshire. Silver-mounted canette of white stone ware of German manufacture, date 1573. Drawing, by Mr. G. Scharf, of the Coventry Tapestry. Views of ancient buildings in Edinburgh, and early plan of the city. Ante bust of Julius Caesar, from Rome. Casts of architectural details, from Holyrood. Cinerary urns, from Crichton, Aberdeenshire. Drawing of Gourlay's house, which formerly stood in Old Bank Close, Edinburgh. Silver-gilt mace given by James VI., and sword of state given by Charles I., to the city of Edinburgh. Musket-balls found on the field of Culloden. Old bells found at Fleur Castle, Kelso. The Stirling heads, from the sculptured ceiling formerly in the Parliament House at Stirling. Drawings of antiquities in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. Bronze tripods and Roman kettles from the Museum of Kelso. Skull-cap worn by Montrose at his execution. 'Caledonian Mercury' during the period of the Rebellion of 1745. Napkin of Queen Mary. Charles the First's cap and handkerchief, given by him from the scaffold to be sent to James Lord Carmichael, as a token from him. A collection of medals and other relics of the Stuarts. Common-place book of the poet Gray. Catalogue of the collection of coins in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, in the handwriting of Sir Walter Scott. Stone moulds for casting bronze objects, found in Ireland and in Ayrshire. The Douglas Jewel, and a fine gold torque, exhibited by the Queen. Gold signet of the queen of James I., 1424. Ring found at Fotheringay. A fine collection of Scottish gold coins, exhibited by the Faculty of Advocates. Fine miniature of Mary, from the Guise family. Mary's opal mourning-ring for the Dauphine. Miniature portrait of Charles I., worked in his own hair. Majolica and Chelsea ware. Numerous models of ancient seals. Rubbings of brasses. Celts. Torques. Fibulae. Armilla. Two-handed sword of King Robert Bruce. Interesting collection of memorials of the Jacobite cause. An extensive series of drawings of British and foreign antiquities, made by J. M. Kemble, Esq. Fine Celtic brooches from Caithness. Powder-horn and numerous curious relics from the field of Culloden. Ancient Scottish quails or drinking cups. Hotspur's target, found on the battle-field of Shrewsbury. Numerous caltrops and arrow-heads. Sword of Donald MacGregor, companion of Prince Charles. Pistol of Graham of Claverhouse. Key of Loch Leven Castle at the time of the escape of Mary, the gift of Sir Walter Scott. Standard of the Earl

Mareschal of Scotland, carried at the Battle of Flodden Field, 1513. Rob Roy's buckler. Foundation charter of the Abbey of Kelso, 1159. Tapestry screen, on which are represented various court personages, supposed to have been worked by Queen Mary. Cradle of Mary, from the palace of Linlithgow. Counterpane and other needlework of Mary. Fine arras tapestry of the Baptism of Constantine, after Rubens. Tray which held the baby-linen of Charles I. Teaspoons used by Queen Mary. Fine necklace and bracelets of antique gems. The Hunterston brooch. Watch-chain given by Prince Charles to James Gordon of Cobairdie. Watch presented by Queen Mary to Margaret, wife of John, first Marquis of Hamilton. Charter of William the Lion, King of Scotland, 1169. The chair of John Knox. Curious ancient morris-dancer's dress, covered with bells. Some remarkably fine triptychs of Limoges enamel, from the collection of the Duke of Hamilton. Letter of Queen Mary. John Knox's Bible, with his notes. The collection of historical portraits in oil, which were less numerous than was anticipated, comprised—Queen Elizabeth, by Zucchero. Sir William Anstruther, 1591. Elizabeth Throgmorton, Lady Raleigh. James VIII. of Scotland. Mary of Guise. Duke of Perth. Cardinal York, the last of the Stuarts. Prince Charles Edward. Sir Walter Raleigh. James VI. Queen Mary and Darnley. Madame Pompadour. Robert Ferguson, the poet. Edward VI. John Anderson, by Wilkie. Sir Henry Palmer. Richard III. The Orkney Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots. Portrait of the Head of Mary after execution, from Lord Londesborough's collection at Grimston. Mary of Lorraine, mother of Mary Queen of Scots.

#### BRITTANY.

Quimper, July 24, 1856.  
SIR.—At a season when many of your readers are arranging their plans for the summer, and settling their *modus operandi* for the ensuing vacation, I am tempted to send you a short account of some of the interesting curiosities I have just seen, and to observe that I believe there are few districts so accessible which can afford so much material for a delightful summer excursion as Brittany. The recent work by my friend, Mr. Weld, will, I have no doubt, fully bear out this statement. It will tempt many to cross the Channel, and to visit a country connected with our own by so many links. The antiquities, the language, the history, and the architecture of Brittany are all connected in some way or other, and at one or more periods, with those of our own country.

The scenery is striking, in many cases beautiful, and there are many features in the physical character of the country which are full of interest to the scientific geographer and geologist. The fisherman will find streams full of trout, which are hardly ever disturbed; the etymologist will find a never-ceasing interest in tracing the connexion between the Breton language and our own Welsh and other Celtic branches. The archaeologist will find the remains and ruins of churches and of castles, of which it will be difficult to say whether their historical associations or their architectural peculiarities are their greatest merits. And, finally, the antiquarian will find at almost every step, and more particularly in the department of Morbihan, matter of the greatest interest, whether he directs his attention to the remains of Roman occupation, or to those still more remarkable and unique monuments which indicate the existence of at least one if not two anterior races.

My own experience of Brittany is as yet but small, and is limited to the southern part of Morbihan and a few adjacent districts. But it contains what to many will be the principal attraction in point of antiquities, that which is perfectly unique, of which no history or tradition has preserved the slightest notice, and to which nothing analogous exists in any other portion of the world. I allude to the Druidical monuments of Carnac. They have been visited occasionally, they have

been more or less perfectly described. Yet few people are aware of their existence, fewer still can understand, without visiting them, the feelings they excite, or the effect they are capable of producing. I shall not pretend in these few hasty lines to describe them, but merely to tempt others to visit them, and to explore the interesting country in which they exist, by the following brief extracts from my journal.

Having obtained what information I could, and having procured some guide books and maps at Rennes, I started for Vannes, where the great publisher and bookseller, Mr. Gall, will be found of great service to the antiquarian and archaeologist. From Vannes I made an interesting excursion to the promontory of Rhuys, which contains many objects of interest, and well deserves a visit. Near the town of Sarzeau, the birthplace of Le Sage, is the famous monastery of St. Gildas, in which the too famous Abelard took refuge from the world. The founder, St. Gildas, was an Englishman, who came to Brittany about the eighth or ninth century. It is situated on a bleak and open spot on the edge of the cliffs which overhang the vast Atlantic, whose waters, smooth as glass when I saw them, are generally dashed with violence against the rugged rocks which form the coast. The old monastery is in ruins, the modern buildings are inhabited by nuns, who devote themselves to the education of the poor, and receive boarders during the bathing season. Further to the westward is the Butte de Fumiac, a tumulus which was opened last year, and in which many interesting objects of antiquity now preserved in the Museum of Vannes were found. At the bottom of the tumulus, in the centre, was a Dolmen, apparently similar to that found under the tumulus in Gavryns, one of the many islands of the Sea of Morbihan. In an easterly direction are the ruins of the Castle of Sucinio, once one of the strongholds of the Duke of Brittany. It is an interesting relic of stern feudal times, and many of the details of its structure and modes of defence are sufficiently well preserved to allow of their being studied with advantage. Some fine modern châteaux have been built near the borders of the inland Sea of Morbihan, where extensive salt-pans have been established, which employ many labourers and powerful corps of *douaniers*. Several vineyards also exist on this promontory, and the Vin de Sarzeau, as the most northern grown in France, has a certain reputation of its own. During the last four years there has been no crop, and I had no opportunity of tasting it.

Another object of great interest in this peninsula, but which, unfortunately, I had no opportunity of seeing, are the very perfect remains of a Roman road, extending with its kerb-stones on each side for a considerable distance. A complete system of Roman roads appears to have existed in the neighbourhood of Vannes and of Auray, many of which have been lately traced out by the exertions of the archaeologists of Morbihan.

The following day I started for Auray and Carnac. The picturesque little town of Auray, as well as Vannes itself, is situated at the head of one of those numerous arms of the sea, narrow tidal estuaries, which form such a peculiar feature in the physical geography of this country, as to have been specially noticed by Cesar in his 'Commentaries.' Some of them open into the Sea of Morbihan, others into the Atlantic itself, and notwithstanding the rapid currents produced by the rise and fall of the tide, they greatly contribute to the commercial prosperity of the towns built on their shores. But I must hasten on to Carnac, a small *bouy* situated near the promontory of Quiberon, the scene of one of the most savage murders which disgraced the arms of the French Republic, where 900 prisoners of war were shot in cold blood. Before reaching Carnac I stopped at the little village of Plouharnef, to see a curious gold necklace or bracelet, and other curiosities, lately found in a large Dolmen, which had been opened near the village.

The Druidical monument of Carnac must be seen to be fully appreciated. No description can

convey an adequate idea of the effect produced by these rude and gigantic blocks, extending in eleven lines along the undulating plain, with occasional interruptions and breaks, for a distance of nearly two miles and a half.

It consists of three distinct groups, the spaces between which do not appear to have been occasioned, as in other cases, by the wilful removal or destruction of the granite blocks. I believe they were always thus detached, inasmuch as in each of them the stones increase in size from east to west, until they finally reach those gigantic proportions, which baffle all our calculations as to the means by which the ancient Celts or Gauls could have transported them, and finally place them in position. Then the mysterious lines, which, when perfect, appear to have been eleven, suddenly cease, and after a short space again recommence with stones of smaller dimensions, gradually increasing in size until we reach the next terminal point.

Another remarkable feature in this monument is, that two of the groups, viz., the first and third, from east to west, terminate in a semicircular cromlech, the stones of which appear to have been originally placed close to each other. Many have been now removed, but enough remain to mark the line of the original semicircle; this, however, does not exactly meet or correspond with the two outer rows or lines of stones. The centre group, which does not terminate in a semicircle, is not, however, for that reason less interesting. Here the granite blocks are, if possible, still more gigantic, more unwieldy, more imposing. They stand, too, on a wild heath, and thus produce a more striking effect than those near Menee, many of which are built into the walls separating the small properties and allotments into which the land is subdivided.

Two other groups of rows of stones exist to the westward—the one near the village of Ste. Barbe, and another still further off at Esteven; the latter I did not see. They are very inferior to the groups of Carnac. Some writers and archaeologists have endeavoured to show that these five groups belonged to one great temple or monument running across the country in a serpentine line, and thence supposed to be a dracontium, sacred to serpent worship. They also suggest that the monument crossed an arm of the sea near Cherispere, and was thence continued as far as Loc Maria Ker. I do not think there is any foundation for these suggestions. The monuments of Ste. Barbe and Esteven belonged, no doubt, to the same system of temples, but they were never continuous, nor are they in the same line. In the same way I do not believe the long lines extended across the arm of the sea near the Château de Lac to Loc Maria Ker. No traces of such lines are to be discovered, though many Dolmens, some in a very perfect state of preservation, may be seen in many directions, and particularly near Loc Maria Ker, but these I cannot stop to describe. I will only briefly mention the gigantic Menhir, now prostrate and broken into four fragments, near the last-mentioned place: its total length was sixty-two feet, and the most curious fact connected with it is, that while the three upper fragments lie together in a line pointing nearly due east, the lower fragment, which is by far the largest, points to the north west or nearly so. I found on several occasions that this divergence of direction was a subject of great interest, and was everywhere considered as an inexplicable puzzle, the solution generally given being, that it must have been overthrown by lightning. After carefully examining the locality, and considering the distances of the blocks from one another, I had come to the following conclusion—viz., that the huge monolith, consisting of coarse-grained granite, unable to bear its own weight, had been broken in the act of being raised in the first instance, and had fallen towards the east. That the Druids, finding the lower portion still of gigantic size, had attempted to place it on end by itself, and that it also had fallen, owing to its peculiar shape, in an almost contrary direction.

This explanation will, I think, satisfactorily account for all the phenomena of the case, which would

otherwise be inexplicable. The lightning theory is clearly insufficient. But I have already exceeded the limits of a letter. I must reserve for another occasion an account of what I saw in the peninsula of Quiberon, and other places in this neighbourhood.

W. J. H.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

M. HENDRIK CONSCIENCE, the celebrated Flemish novelist, requests us to make the announcement, which we are sure will gratify many English readers, that he is about to bring out a new work, entitled 'De Geldduivel,' the Demon of Gold, and that he has made arrangements for the early publication of a translation in this country.

A new edition of the Letters of Horace Walpole is in course of preparation, under the editorship of Mr. Peter Cunningham. Mr. Bentley the publisher invites the communication of original letters, which will be duly acknowledged, and announces that "the work will be published in octavo, with very numerous portraits, and other illustrations, and printed with elegance." The first volume is to appear in November.

Mr. Thomas Wright has discovered, among the MSS. in the Hunterian Library in Glasgow, an early and very fine manuscript of the collection of French stories compiled at the court of Philippe-le-Bon, Duke of Burgundy, and known by the title of 'Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles.' No manuscript of this work was believed to have survived, and the modern critical editions have all been formed upon the comparatively incorrect black-letter editions. Mr. Wright is editing a new edition of this book from the MS. at Glasgow, which will be published in Paris. We are glad that this literary treasure has fallen into such competent editorial hands.

The annual examinations of the public schools have been held during the last two weeks. On Friday, the 25th ult., the distribution of prizes took place at King's College, London, Lord Radstock presiding. The speeches and recitations were in the usual style, and bore ample evidence of the efficiency of the school. A comparative novelty at such exhibitions is the performance of singing classes, part songs, and a glee and chorus of Bishop, being given on this occasion with excellent effect. On the same day the City of London School assembled previously to the breaking up, the Lord Mayor presiding. During the last term there were 600 boys, the full complement, at the school. Among the recent changes in this institution, the report of the head master announced the removal of Mr. Watson to an appointment in King's College, and of Mr. Irving to the classical chair in the University of Melbourne. Mr. Martin Irving, a son of the late Rev. Edward Irving, distinguished himself highly at King's College and at Balliol College, Oxford, and the appointment of such a man is a great acquisition to the Melbourne University. A number of new benefactions, in the form of money for prizes, has been announced, and as an encouragement to competition, it was stated that the total number of prizes this year was 177, distributed among 124 boys. The Times scholarship this year was gained by Mortimer, a son of the head master. Abbott, the captain of the school, and Carpenter Scholar, so named after Carpenter, the founder of the school, carried seven prizes. This institution we are happy to report in such flourishing condition.

Saturday last was Eton speech day, when a brilliant company assembled to witness the proceedings in the College, and to take part in the festivities of the evening, including a banquet in the Hall, the boating on the river, and the usual display of fireworks.

The reading of a dramatized version of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' by a coloured lady, Mrs. Webb, drew together a large and distinguished audience at Stafford-house this week, the Duchess of Sutherland having kindly undertaken to introduce the reader to the English public. Mrs. Webb, the daughter of a Spanish gentleman and of a Virginian slave, is liable, under the present American

law, to be retaken, even from a free State, and restored to slavery. Having appeared with much success as a reader in several of the cities of the States, she proposes continuing the same course in this country. The reading of 'Uncle Tom' was delivered with much art and feeling, but the familiarity of the subject has destroyed some of the advantages which an earlier appearance would have given. We are told that the reading of Longfellow's 'Hiawatha' by Mrs. Webb is managed in a spirited and interesting manner.

Welcome intelligence has been this week received of the movements of Dr. Livingstone. In a despatch to the Admiralty from Commodore H. D. Trotter, of H.M.S. *Castor*, Simon's Bay, May 26th, is the following letter, addressed to the commander of any ship that might touch at Quillimaine en route to the Cape. By direction of Commodore Trotter, H.M. brig *Dart* visited that port for the purpose of making inquiries, and obtained this acceptable news of the enterprising traveller:—

"Tete, March 3rd.

"Sir.—You will confer a great favour if, in the event of your ship going to the Cape, you take charge of the accompanying packet of letters for Mr. M'Lear, the Astronomer Royal there. Should you have no intention of proceeding thither soon, be so kind as to give directions that it may go by the first safe conveyance."

"I arrived here—the furthest inland station of the Portuguese in Eastern Africa—yesterday morning, having come across the continent from Angola; am in good health, but pretty tired out from marching for some time past over a very rough, stony country. Our cattle were all killed by the fly called 'iseete,' and, not possessing any goods to buy a canoe, we had to rough it. A few days' rest will set me all to rights again, and I shall then leave for Quillimaine.

"The Portuguese here are very kind—indeed, I have found them so everywhere: and if I could only secure of my family receiving early intelligence of my welfare, I would rest a short time in peace."

"D. LIVINGSTONE."

The Government has entered into a contract with the European and Colombian Steam Navigation Company for the Australian post-office service. The mails and passengers are to be conveyed by special steamers from Southampton to Alexandria, in communication with boats from Suez to Melbourne, between which ports the Company fixes the passage at thirty-nine days out and thirty-five home. In the tender of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, the time between Suez and Melbourne was forty-five days out and forty-three home, and the longer period was one of the grounds of the rejection of the tender by the Lords of the Treasury. Two other tenders by private capitalists were in competition. The service of the steamers will commence at an early date. While noticing these communications with remote ports, we may mention that a new line of steamers commences running this week direct from Glasgow to Calcutta. The Directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Company will require to look both to their scales of charges and their arrangements for public convenience, of some of which travellers have lately had reason to complain.

The following programme has been issued by the Council of the Archaeological Association for their forthcoming meeting at Bridgewater:—*Monday, August 25th*: Meeting of Committee in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall of Bridgewater, at half-past one p.m.—Public Meeting in the Town Hall at three p.m.—Introductory Sketch of the Antiquities of Somersetshire, by T. J. Pettigrew, Esq.—Examination of various places in Bridgewater, Churches, &c.—Evening Meeting at the Town Hall, half-past eight p.m. *Tuesday, August 26th*: Visit to Glastonbury Abbey, Church, Abbot's Kitchen, the George Inn, &c.—Wells Cathedral, Close, Palace, St. Cuthbert's Church, &c.—Evening Meeting. *Wednesday August 27th*: Visit to Martock.—Stoke-sub-Hamdon.—Stoke Church.—Hamdon Hill—Montacute, remains of the Cluniac Monastery.—The Church.—Brympton Church.—Yeovil Church.—Evening Meeting. *Thursday, August 28th*: Visit to Clevedon Church, Walton Castle and Church, Weston in Gordano Church, Canemor Court, Clapton in Gordano Church, Cadbury Camp, Tickenham Church, Clevedon Court.—Evening Meeting. *Friday, August 29th*: Visit to Bath.—Reception at the Bath Royal Literary Institution.—Examination of various

Churches, &c.—Evening Conversazione. *Saturday, August 30th*: Excursion to Hampton Down, Belgrave Settlement.—Bath-Hampton Church.—Bathaston Church.—Langridge Church.—Waller's Entrenchment.—The Camps.—Chapel on Lansdown.—Closing Meeting.

The venerable Humboldt has caused to be published a notice which will be read with deep interest, as showing the energetic spirit which still animates the aged philosopher, and the freshness of the generous sentiments by which he has been actuated throughout his long and honourable career. The suppression by the American editor of the chapter relating to slavery, in Humboldt's *Essay on the Island of Cuba*, was a disingenuous act, richly deserving the reprobation bestowed on it in this protest:—

"Under the title of 'Essai Politique sur l'Isle de Cuba,' published in Paris in 1826, I collected together all that the large edition of my 'Voyage aux Régions Equinoxiales du Nouveau Continent' contained upon the state of agriculture and slavery in the Antilles. There appeared at the same time an English and a Spanish translation of this work, the latter entitled 'Ensayo Político sobre la Isla de Cuba,' neither of which omitted any of the frank and open remarks which feelings of humanity had inspired. But there appears just now, strangely enough, translated from the Spanish translation, and not from the French original, and published by Derby and Jackson in New York, an octavo volume of 400 pages, under the title of 'The Island of Cuba,' by Alexander Humboldt; with Notes and a Preliminary Essay by J. S. Thrasher. The translator, who has lived a long time at that beautiful island, has enriched my work by more recent data on the subject of the numerical standing of the population, of the cultivation of the soil, and the state of trade, and, generally speaking, exhibited a charitable moderation in his discussion of conflicting opinions. I owe it, however, to a moral feeling, that is now as lively in me as it was in 1826, publicly to complain that in a work which bears my name the entire seventh chapter of the Spanish translation, with which my *essai politique* ended, has been arbitrarily omitted. To this very portion of my work I attach greater importance than to any astronomical observations, experiments of magnetic intensity, or statistical statements. 'J'ai examiné avec franchise' (I here repeat the words which I used thirty years ago), ce qui concerne l'organisation des sociétés humaines dans les colonies, l'égalité répartie des droits et des jouissances de la vie, les dangers menaçant la sagesse des législateurs et la modération des hommes libres peuvent éloigner, quelque soit la forme des Gouvernements. Il apparaît au voyageur qui a vu de près ce qui tourmente et dégrade la nature humaine de faire parvenir les plaintes de l'infortune à ceux qui ont le devoir de les soulager. J'ai rappelé dans cet exposé combien l'ancienne législation Espagnole de l'esclavage est moins inhumaine et moins atroce que celle des Etats à esclaves dans l'Amérique continentale au nord et au sud de l'équateur.' A steady advocate as I am for the most unfettered expression of opinion in speech or in writing, I should never have thought of complaining if I had been attacked on account of my statements; but I do think I am entitled to demand that in the free states of the continent of America people should be allowed to read what has been permitted to circulate from the first year of its appearance in a Spanish translation.

"Berlin, July, 1856." "ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT."

In connexion with the Euphrates Valley line of railway, of which we gave an account lately (*ante*, p. 493), a company is being formed for completing the telegraphic communication between this country and India. It is to be called the European and Indian Junction Telegraph Company, with a capital of 200,000*l.* in 10*l.* shares, half of which are to be allotted to the Euphrates Railway share-holders, and the other half to the public. The telegraphic line will pass with the railway from the port of Seleucus to the Euphrates, and thence to the head of the Persian Gulf, from which a cable will be laid by the East India Company to Kurrahee, in Bombay. From Seleucus the communication on the European side will be completed with the Austrian system of telegraphs. The 'Report of the Electric Telegraph in India' from the end of January, 1855, to the end of January, 1856, by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, gives a most encouraging account of this great work. For the twelve months the total number of despatches was 9971, of which 8533 were private, and 1438 for public service. The large proportion were between Bombay and Calcutta, and Bombay and Madras, showing that the commercial intelligence from Europe and China is what gives the chief employment to the telegraph. The natives are beginning to use the lines freely, and the proportion of despatches sent by them increases daily. The financial returns of the service are most favourable, and the superintendent says, "I see every reason to conclude that the future income of the department will increase far

beyond all our anticipations." The lines have received little damage last year from thunderstorms and other physical disturbances, and, strange to say, the Santals during their insurrection forbore, perhaps from superstitious fear, to meddle with the wires.

The recent speech of Lord John Russell at Tavistock, on the occasion of opening a school, founded and endowed by the Duke of Bedford, well illustrates the present position of the question of education. The pith of the speech was, that since Parliament cannot agree at present about any national measure, it is incumbent on every friend to the cause to put forth with greater energy voluntary efforts, of which this benefaction of the Duke of Bedford was an honourable example. A caricature has lately been published by Mr. Maclean of the Haymarket, worthy of the best days of H.B., in which Sir James Graham is having "a shay" at Lord John's twelve resolutions, propped on sticks after the manner of Greenwich Fair. The missile is the voluntary principle, Sir James Graham's conversion to which is further indicated by Baines's pamphlet sticking out of his pocket. Gladstone backs the thrower, and Pakington, Milnes, Disraeli, and Lord John look on.

The announcement of the early sale by auction of the Panopticon, in Leicester-square, will not surprise those who have known its history. What is to be done with this *bizarre* but striking and convenient building? The sale advertisement suggests that it is easily convertible into a theatre or opera house. But we are already promised more than enough accommodation in London for such purposes. A plan is on foot for converting the Panopticon into a grand *Café Restaurant*—a purpose for which, in size, site, and form, it is admirably adapted, and the scheme is one which, under judicious and experienced management, might reasonably be expected to succeed.

Antiquarians will be glad to hear that the beautiful old castle at Meissen, called the Albrechtsburg, is about to be put in thorough repair. It has been for many years, and is still used as a factory for the beautiful porcelain known as Dresden china. It is the intention of the present Government to remove the factory to a more suitable building, and to have the castle thoroughly cleaned, repaired, and, where necessary, restored; and, when finished, handed over to one of the Princes as a summer residence.

The Council of King's College, London, have resolved to devote the 500*l.* presented as a memorial of Sir R. H. Inglis, and any other donations that may be added to it, to the foundation of a scholarship, or a prize for the encouragement of the study of modern history and English literature; an application of the fund which must be generally approved.

The fourteenth volume of M. Thiers' 'History of the Consulate and Empire' is in the press, at Paris.

Heidelberg has sustained a loss in its mathematical professor, Dr. Schivens, who died on the 16th July, at the advanced age of seventy.

Cesare Cantù, the celebrated Italian historian, has been refused permission by the Austrian Government to accept or wear the order of the cross of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus, presented to him on account of his literary attainments by the King of Sardinia.

Signore Botta, publisher of Turin, is about to bring out the literary remains of Gioberti, edited by Giuseppe Massari; the first volumes will contain the "Protologie," a philosophical treatise, and the fragments of a work on Catholic reformation ("della riforma cattolica").

The Russian government is about to send out a new scientific expedition round the world; it is to leave Cronstadt in September next, and is to consist of many eminent nautical men and savans. It will be the thirty-ninth which that government has sent round the world. The first, under Krusenstern, left in 1803, and returned in 1806, and the last, under Nevezkoï, sailed in 1848, and returned in 1851.

[Aug. 2, '56]

Fêtes have just been given at Brussels to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession of King Leopold to the throne, and we learn that in the more important of them a distinguished place was awarded to the members of the literary, artistic, and learned societies:—we learn, too, that in the distribution of honours, which in accordance with continental custom took place on the occasion of the fêtes, authors, artists, and savans were not forgotten. Amongst those gentlemen best known beyond the limits of Belgium are M. Conscience, the Flemish novelist; M. de Caisne, the naturalist, who, though attached to the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, is a Belgian; M. Gallait and M. Wiertz, historical painters.

The letters of the Grand Duke Charles Augustus, and of Goethe to Dobereiner, have just been published at Weimar; those of the Prince embrace a period of sixteen years' correspondence upon physical science, with a man of profound knowledge and enlarged experience; they are principally upon agriculture in all its branches, and contain much that is useful practically, and much that is suggestive. Goethe's letters, too, are highly interesting, showing his extensive knowledge and widespread interest on all subjects.

A project has been laid before the municipality of Rome, by the "Pia-Latina" railway company, to lengthen the Corso, and carry it on to the Colosseum, so that it would terminate in the classic ground of the old "Forum Romanum." In order to effect this improvement, that part of the Venetian Palace (the property of Austria and seat of its embassy in Rome) which is nearest the column of Trajan would have to be purchased and removed, and it is feared the Austrian government will throw obstacles in the way. The proposed street would skirt the Capitol hill, sparing in its course the monument of Caius Bibulus, and forming a slight but barely perceptible curve, take its course through some of the most interesting parts of ancient Rome. The projectors of the plan offer to carry it out at their own expense, reserving, amongst other privileges, the exclusive right over and property in all antiquities, objects of art—in fact, in all "treasure trove" of every kind discovered in the course of their excavations. There is no doubt that it would be a great improvement to the city, remove many old and bad houses, and confident expectations are held out of great acquisitions in antiquarian treasures.

#### FINE ARTS.

DURING the past week a picture, by Benozzo Gozzoli, has been placed in the National Gallery. The subject is an altar-piece, representing the Madonna and Child enthroned. Behind the throne are some angels; on the left of the spectator, St. John the Baptist and S. Zenobio, dressed in an embroidered chasuble; on the right, St. Peter and S. Dominic; in front, St. Jerome and St. Francis, kneeling. The painting is on wood and in tempera—the figures of a small life size. The official report states it to have been purchased in Florence, in October, 1855, from the agent for the heirs of the Rinuccini estate, for £374. 10s. 8d. The sale of the Rinuccini Gallery was first fixed for May, 1852, but took place later. A few pictures remained unsold, and amongst them was this specimen. It is stated that, whilst the picture is in excellent preservation in all essential respects, the gilded portions have to some extent been restored, and a frame has been selected and provided for it. The following further information respecting the history of the picture is given in the Directors' Report:—"In November, 1855, some original documents relating to the history of art were published in Florence, and among them is the contract for this picture, dated 23rd October, 1461. With the aid of this document the work is recognised as the principal portion of the altar-piece formerly in the chapel of the Compagnia di S. Marco, in Florence, and which is mentioned among the productions of Benozzo Gozzoli, by Vasari. The following is a translation

of some extracts from the contract:—'That the said Benozzo shall, at his own cost, prepare with *gesso*, and diligently gild the said panel throughout, both as regards figures and ornaments; and that no other painter shall be allowed to take part in the execution of the said picture, neither in the predella, nor in any portion of the same. And that the said Benozzo shall be bound to exert himself in the said work in such a manner that the said painting may exceed every good painting hitherto executed by the said Benozzo, or at least may be said quite to equal the same. And he shall represent on the said panel the hereinafter mentioned figures, in the mode and form about to be expressed:—First, in the centre of the said picture, the figure of Our Lady enthroned, similar in mode, form, and ornaments to the picture of the high altar of St. Mark, in Florence. And on the right side of the said picture (left of the spectator), beside Our Lady, the figure of St. John the Baptist, in the proper usual dress; and next him the figure of S. Zenobio, with his ornamented sacerdotal dress; and then the figure of St. Jerome kneeling, with his proper and usual accessories; and on the left side (right of the spectator), the undermentioned saints, that is to say, their figures. First, beside Our Lady, the figure of St. Peter, and next him that of St. Dominic, and then, next St. Dominic, the figure of St. Francis kneeling, with every accessory as usual.' Then follows the description of the pictures of the predella, and of two infants holding a shield, 'where it is usual to place the arms of the person who orders the picture. . . . And that all the azure which shall be employed on the said picture shall be the finest ultramarine, and that all the other colours shall be of the finest quality.' The artist engages to complete the work within a year from October 1461. The altarpiece of the Compagnia di S. Marco, by Benozzo Gozzoli, is noticed by Richa, without describing the subject, as being, in 1757, in the refectory of the Spedale del Melani, or de' Pellegrini, in Florence. At what subsequent period it became private property has not hitherto come to light."

At the Royal Polytechnic an excellent copy of Raphael's masterpiece, *The School of Athens*, by M. Paul Balze, is now on exhibition. The work has been executed for the University of Virginia, U.S., one of the officials of which, Mr. Pratt, lectures on Athenian philosophy and philosophers, as illustrated by this picture. M. Balze was the artist employed by M. Thiers, in 1845, to make copies of all the most famous works of Raphael, and this commission he executed in a satisfactory manner. The present painting has the testimony of Horace Vernet and other artists in its approval.

Signor de Fabrio is at present occupied in finishing the monument to Tasso, the model for which was made and approved of so long ago as in 1827, but the paucity of funds and political disturbances have always interfered in its execution. The monument, which will be finished in a year, and towards the expenses of which the Pope has subscribed 2000 crowns, is in the shape of an altar, with a figure of Tasso, surrounded by emblems of the crusades, gazing with steadfast look and earnest expression upwards, supposed to be invoking the divine muse, who appears surrounded by angels, and supported on either side by figures of Fame. The idea is common in the extreme, but the execution is good and the grouping clever. The monument is to be erected in the church of St. Onofrio.

The community of Frescati has had a very well-executed medal struck in the Roman Mint on the occasion of the opening of the "Pia-Latina" line, and presented it to the Pope and other high dignitaries present at the occasion. It bears on one side a very good portrait of his Holiness, and on the reverse the inscription:—"Nonis Jul. a MDCCCLVI. Pio IX. O. M. Autore ferre vi, commoditas Romæ Tusculum primum inducta Senatus Populusque Tusculanus." One can fancy the horror-struck shade of Cicero rushing off to the mountains, driven away from its quiet haunts among the shattered columns and mutilated

statues of the Tusculum villa, by this huge snorting monster rushing impetuously on its iron way from the old city on the seven hills to the cool woods of Frescati.

A statue of Jean Van Eyck, the inventor of painting in oil, and one of the great masters of the Flemish school, was inaugurated on Monday last, at Bruges, his native city. The statue is in marble, and is well executed. The inauguration took place with a good deal of pomp, and the King and royal family were present at it.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE departure of Mdlle. Wagner has left to Mdlle. Piccolomini the last honours of the season at Her Majesty's Theatre. Three farewell nights are to be given next week, in which the accomplished lyric actress is to appear in different characters.

The season at the Royal Italian Opera closes this evening with the performance of Donizetti's *La Favorita*. On Thursday, Verdi's *Il Trovatore* was given, the *Manrico* of Mario having kept up to the last the attractiveness of this opera.

Madame Ristori's supplemental series of farewell performances were concluded last evening, when she appeared in *Francesca da Rimini*, and in *I Gelosi Fortunati*.

At Drury Lane the season of opera in English has also closed, after a well-sustained series of performances, not always capable of standing severe criticism, but offering cheap music to classes hitherto debarred from operatic entertainments.

Dramatic performances must be laborious work in this sultry season, but are kept up with unflagging vigour at most of the houses. Mr. Palgrave Simpson's new play, *Second Love*, at the Haymarket, is the *pièce de résistance*, but the Spanish dancers, we suspect, form the main attraction, and on these the manager must chiefly rely for carrying out his purpose of 'keeping it up' all the year round. Robson's burlesque of Ristori, as well as the admirable acting of Wigan and Mrs. Stirling, sustain the position of the Olympic; while Wright serves as useful assistant to Webster at the Adelphi, in addition to the novelty of the Irish and Yankee performance of Mr. and Mrs. Barnaby Williams. At the Princess's the *Winter's Tale* continues to astonish and delight crowded audiences.

#### LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL.—*July 24th.*—Upwards of four hundred persons responded to the invitation of the Council, to meet at Westminster Abbey, for the purpose of personally examining that edifice, and of commencing within its walls a series of inquiries into its history and antiquities. Mr. G. Scott commenced a lecture upon the Abbey as it now exists, having prefaced his observations with a glance at its earlier architectural history.

The building erected by the Confessor, and the nobler structure which arose under the direction of Henry III. and still remains to bear witness to the taste and skill of that period, were severally described. The great object of the latter monarch was shown to be the formation of a shrine which should be associated with the tomb of the former, and also with a church for the Abbey of Westminster of becoming dignity. The governing principles and the details of the architecture were set forth and explained; the various apsidal chapels which were clustered around the great eastern apse of King Henry's choir were compared (with the assistance of plans) with similar arrangements in several continental cathedrals, and the Westminster arrangement was shown to possess peculiarities of its own which were carefully elucidated. The original Lady Chapel, which was removed in order to admit of the erection of the chapel of Henry the Seventh, together with Henry the Seventh's chapel itself, the chapter-house, the cloister, and the conventional buildings, were described, and the present nave

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with its aisles, the work of Henry the Fifth, was shown to exhibit a most remarkable instance of general assimilation to the earlier portions of the fabric, upon which they abut, and of which they form the unbroken continuation westwards; at the same time the distinctive character of the fifteenth century work was shown and explained. Mr. Scott noticed the various injuries to which this grand and venerable church had been subjected; glanced at the monuments, especially in their architectural capacity; and concluded with inviting his audience to follow him about the Abbey, so soon as the monuments had been more fully described by the Rev. Charles Boutell. Mr. Scott afterwards addressed more minute remarks upon various portions of the church to the numerous visitors from several points, and he repeated his observations three times, in order to enable them to be heard by each of the three parties into which it had been found necessary to divide the assembly. The personal examination of the Abbey extended to all parts of the building, including the triforium galleries, the outer passages between the parapet and the leading of the roof, the chapel of St. Blaise, the crypt beneath the Chapter-house, the cloisters, and the curious remains of Saxon and early Norman work which may yet be traced out in the vaults beneath the prebendal residences.

In his address upon the Monuments, the Rev. Charles Boutell observed, that these memorials impart a peculiar character to Westminster Abbey, rendering it, in addition to its cathedral capacity, a vast national monumental shrine. In dealing with these monuments an archaeological society would necessarily divide them into two great classes, of which the one, with those venerable from their antiquity, would comprehend all that combine these three essential qualities—that they are truly monumental in their character, consistently Christian in their sentiment, and worthy as works of art; while under the second class would be included the numerous productions, professing, indeed, to be Christian monuments, designed also to be regarded as works of art, but which are altogether destitute of any claim for respect or regard as well in the one capacity as the other. These wretched intruders do more than degrade this glorious Abbey by their presence; it must not be forgotten that, in almost every instance, they have found a position within its walls through a sweeping destruction, or at least by a barbarous mutilation of most noble and precious work. These so-called monuments are also the more earnestly to be denounced, because, through the power of association, they reflect their own dishonour upon the memories of the persons whose names they bear; whereas, these memories are worthy of all honour, and they ought to be cherished in every way consistently with their worth. Aided by a plan, the lecturer proceeded to give a general sketch of the long array of monuments which are consistent at once with their name and their position. Taking the shrine of the Confessor as the centre of the whole, he showed how around it are grouped a series of royal and princely tombs, themselves encircled by the ambulatory of the aisle with its pavement slabs of memorial, beyond which again the radiating apsidal chapels, with the chapel of Henry VII. towards the east, extend and complete the monumental groups.

Subsequently, when the party had entered the choir, with its aisle and chapels, Mr. Boutell entered upon a more minute description of the several monuments, pointing out the peculiarities of each, and inviting attention to their varied merits. The monument and effigy of Aymer de Valence were pronounced to be unsurpassed in artistic splendour as in appropriateness of character; very high encomiums were passed upon those of Henry III., Eleanor, Queen of Edward I., Edward III. and his Queen Philippa, and Richard II. and Anne of Bohemia; the tomb and effigy of Aveline, Countess of Lancaster, were shown to be of the very first order of excellence, and this effigy was compared with other similar works; the monument of Edward, Earl of Lancaster, was also fully described and compared with the adjoining tombs, with the view both to point out its own claims for

attentive and careful study, and to indicate the manner in which it exemplifies a gradual decline from that perfection in art which distinguish the tombs of De Valence and the Countess Aveline. In the chapels the tombs of Lord Bourchier, banner-bearer to Henry V., of Sir Giles Daubigny, K.G., and his lady, of William de Valence, of John of Eltham, and of Archbishop Simon de Langham, were specially noticed. Particular attention was directed to the effigy of John of Eltham, as an example of armour, as also to the fact that the very noble canopy which originally rose above this fine tomb had been destroyed within the last 125 years. The brasses which remain, and the slabs which have been despoiled of them, received their proper share of regard. The despoiled slab of Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of Edward III., still lying in the pavement of the Confessor's Chapel, and the smaller slab to William de Valence the younger, with its illustration of mosaic (a portion of which remains intact, having been preserved beneath the lower step leading to the chapel of Henry V.), with two Norman coffin-lids now reversed, were shown. The monuments of Henry VII., and Anne his queen, of Queens Elizabeth and Mary, and Mary Queen of Scots, with those of the Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII., and of the Lady Douglas, mother of Lord Darnley, with several others, were also described.

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society will, we trust, go on with the good work thus auspiciously begun. As one practical result of their recent meeting, it is to be hoped that the monuments and also the architecture of Westminster Abbey will no longer be described to the public after the manner which has hitherto reflected anything but credit upon the authorities. It will be as easy for the official cicerones of the Abbey to point out what is really most worthy of attention, and to give both correct and instructive descriptions, as to hurry over everything with equal disregard to the distinctive claims of each particular object, and then to sum up the always disappointing though often surprising narrative by specifying two of the noblest tombs as the memorials of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, a Knight Templar of the reign of Henry III., and of the Countess Aveline, his third wife!

In the evening of the same day, the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society held a *conversazione* at the Architectural Museum, where a paper upon the earliest recorded architectural history of the structures which preceded the existing Westminster Abbey was read by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, the chairman; after which the Hon. Sec., Mr. George Bish Webb, submitted some particulars, communicated by Mr. W. H. Cowper, concerning the discovery of some interesting Roman remains during the progress of excavations made in the course of the present year at Bow. Subsequently Mr. Scott and Mr. Boutell addressed to the assembly some supplemental observations connected with the visit to Westminster Abbey, and with special reference to the monuments; the latter gentleman, having expressed his anxious hope that those memorials which he had arranged under his first class would receive more attention from the public, together with better treatment from those to whose guardianship they are entrusted, urged the propriety of removing from the Abbey the objectionable and intrusive monuments, some of which he declared to be, if possible, even worse both in sentiment and art than Baron Marochetti's execrable "Scutari Monument," as shown in model at the Crystal Palace; and Mr. Scott, in a very able and lucid speech, submitted the leading features of plan, already under consideration, for at once securing to Westminster Abbey an unbroken historical succession of worthy monumental memorials, and of setting it free from its present injurious degradation. This plan would still preserve at Westminster the monuments which might be removed from the Abbey, and would establish in the Abbey itself a memorial commemorative of every individual to whose memories the removed monuments originally were set up. It

would also, of course, provide that the remaining monuments should receive due honour, respect, and careful observance.

**ASIATIC.—July 5th.**—Professor Wilson, President, in the chair. John Jackson, Esq., M.D., was elected a Resident Member of the Society. Professor Wilson brought to the notice of the meeting an account, which had been printed at Bombay, of certain ruined cities in Sind, by A. F. Bellasis, Esq. One of these, of especial extent and interest, known anciently as Brahmanabad, is situated on a branch of the old bed of the Indus, about sixty miles N.E. of Hyderabad. About a mile and a half from this, the remains of another city are found, known as Dolora, and about five miles in another direction, the ruins of the city of Deepur. Brahmanabad was about four miles in circumference, and was built entirely of burnt brick. It is now a ruin, but the plans of its chief buildings are traceable. It must have existed as a city before the dynasty of the Brahman kings of Sind, which began A.D. 622, because the first of these, named Chach, reduced it to his authority. It is mentioned in the Chach-nama, written at the beginning of the eighth century, as the capital of a king named Cyrus-bin-Sahirai,—the last name most probably representing the dynasty of the Sah kings. The destruction of this city is attributed to an earthquake; and there are many appearances in the ruins which justify this statement. In the excavations made by Mr. Bellasis, great quantities of bones were found, sometimes almost entire skeletons, in positions which showed that the individuals had been crushed at the doors of the houses; large quantities of glass and crystal were also found. Some of the glass was stained of a deep blue; and portions were worked in raised and ribbed patterns, indicating a high state of art. Some cornelians and agates were found, beautifully engraved—perfect gems of art; and balls of agate, ivory, and marble, skilfully turned. A set of ivory chessmen, nearly complete, was also discovered. Another city of great interest has been discovered near Rori, in digging the Narra canal. The ruins were of burnt brick, and were found ten feet below the surface. The foundations of the houses were of stone. Neither burnt bricks nor stone are at present used in Sind, all the cities being built of sun-dried bricks, the climate being so dry as to render burnt bricks and stone less necessary. The employment of such materials has been thought to indicate a change of climate. Professor Wilson also laid before the meeting some very beautiful and interesting photographs, by Captain Biggs, of the Bombay army. Two series consisted of views of the mosques and other objects of interest in the city of Bojapoor; and the third, of ancient temples in the district of Belgaum, in the Southern Mahratta country. In and about the town of Iwali there are many interesting temples of Saiva character. In a cave which he discovered at Badami, Captain Biggs found no less than 450 figures of Buddha, of different sizes, and in various attitudes. An inscription on a temple near Badami states it to have been repaired and rebuilt by a prince who reigned A.D. 1533. Captain Biggs' duties having obliged him to quit this part of the country, he was unable to complete his labours; but he states that the locality affords an interesting field for the antiquary and photographer, from which much valuable information may be gathered. The Secretary also submitted a paper, by J. Romer, Esq., upon Professor Westergaard's edition of the *Vendidad Sade*, in which he adduced reasons for believing the Zend language to have been fabricated by the Persians. The Secretary read some extracts of a letter, recently received from H. Norris, Esq., of the Madras army, written at Tonghoo, on the northern frontier of the recently acquired province of Pegu, containing some notices of this undescribed region, as seen on a march from Moulmein. The writer on this occasion followed chiefly the line of the Sitang river, though generally at some distance from its banks. He speaks well of Moulmein; notices its superiority in general appearance to the native towns of India. He is much interested with the good temper and independent bearing of

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the natives; and the freedom and intelligence of the women, who seem to be universally the shopkeepers, the husband holding, apparently, a very subordinate position. Many shops are kept by Jews,—a clean, handsome, intelligent race of men, who speak several languages, and appear to be superior to those usually seen in Europe. At Shui-gheen, a large town on the Sitang river, the writer witnessed a theatrical entertainment, called a *Pooee*, which was of course unintelligible to him, though it gave great amusement to a very numerous audience. It was in the open air, and was lighted up with large blazing bowls, which probably contained petroleum. Much of the amusement appeared to consist in sundry mistakes made by the chief actor in dressing himself. Tonghoo, at the end of the journey, which was reached about three months ago, is somewhat more than a square mile in extent, surrounded by a wall and ditch, and containing several villages, a couple of pagodas, and much open ground. The houses, generally, are mere huts, and thatched, pretty nearly as the Burmese houses are described by Symes in his embassy. The town is now a British cantonment, and will probably rise to a condition at least equal to what it enjoyed a century ago, as an almost independent principality, holding of the sovereigns of Pegu, in the times anterior to the Burman ascendancy. The route from the coast to Tonghoo was almost wholly a narrow tract, barely wide enough for two men abreast, and is cut through a dense forest of lofty trees. Occasionally there would be a plain, covered with elephant grass, ten feet in height; but "in jungle or plain, throughout the whole distance, we came at constant short intervals upon a long teak pole, destined to support the wires of the electric telegraph!" There was little or no game met with; but the constant cry of pea and jungle fowl, and the occasional alarm of a tiger, was indicative of its existence. The nights during the march were bitterly cold, and heavy dews fell after the sunset. The soldiers amused themselves usually until bed time in making bonfires of whole trees. One evening an unfortunate fellow wandered from the body; and although bugles were sounded during the night, the troops marched the next morning without him, leaving, however, behind them a small party, who found the man half dead with fatigue and fright at a distance of four miles from the halting place. At Tantabeeen, one march from Tonghoo, the route lay across the Sitang, which was then (the dry season) 250 yards wide, though broader in the monsoon. The writer notices the moist atmosphere of the country, so different from that of India; and attributes it to the dense jungles, and numerous creeks and rivers, which are affected by the tides at great distances from the sea. The Sitang, like the Indus, is subject to a bore, which runs up, at new and full moon, at a rate of eight or nine miles an hour, and has been more than once the cause of severe loss of life since the province came into the possession of the British.

ZOOLOGICAL.—*July 8th.*—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. Woodward exhibited some land and fresh-water shells, collected by Dr. T. Thomson in Thibet and Kashmir, in 1847-8, when he accompanied Major Cunningham and Captain H. Strachey in one of the most adventurous journeys ever made in the Himalaya. Ten of the eighteen species are British shells, and the rest widely-distributed Indian forms, one of (*Cyrena Juminalis*, Mull.) formerly inhabited this country. *Helix pulchella* and *Zua lubrica* were found in the alluvial clays of Lakardo, and *Valvata piscinalis* at Kashmir. These shells, so widely distributed, have also a very high antiquity, being found in the newer tertiary deposits of the Thames valley, associated with remains of the extinct elephant and rhinoceros. Mr. Sclater laid before the Society a catalogue of birds, lately collected by M. Auguste Sallé in Southern Mexico, and pointed out the principal novelties in the collection, which consisted of 233 species, and was principally formed near Cordova, in the State of Vera Cruz, and partly also in the vicinity of the Peak of Orizaba,

in the State of La Puebla. Mr. Sclater observed that there were examples of many well-known South American forms in the present collection which had not hitherto been noticed so far north; the zoology of the hot eastern sea-board which M. Sallé explored being, as might have been expected, much more tropical in its character than the table-land of the interior, whence most Mexican collections have hitherto been brought. The species new to science were characterized under the following names.—*Certhiola Mexicana*, *Anabates rubiginosus* and *cervinigularis*, *Anabazenops variegaticeps*, *Xenops Mexicanus*, *Solerurus Mexicanus*, *Scytalopus prostheleucus*, *Parus meridionalis*, *Formicarius moniliger*, *Todirostrum cinereigulare*, *Muscivora Mexicana*, *Elenia variegata*, *Tyrannus speciosus*, *Pipra mentalis*, and *Myiadestes unicolor*. Mr. Robert Heddle read a paper in which he gave anatomical measurements of a whale of the genus *Physeter* lately dissected by him. It was stranded on the small island of Laman, or Lambholm, in Orkney, on the 9th of March. Mr. P. P. Carpenter communicated two papers, one giving 'Descriptions of Shells from the Gulf of California, and the Pacific coasts of Mexico and California,' the other being 'A Monograph of the Shells collected by Mr. Nuttall on the Californian coast in the years 1834-5.'

*July 22nd.*—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited two specimens of a new Tanager, of the genus *Calliste* (making a fifty-second species of that form), which he had received from Messrs. Verreaux, of Paris; he characterized it under the name of *Calliste rufigenis*. Mr. Eyton made some remarks on the oyster-beds of England, and gave an account of some observations which he had recently had an opportunity of making on the exclusion of spawn, forming part of the material for his Report on this subject which will be made to the British Association at Cheltenham. Mr. Fairholme communicated a few observations on the habits of an Australian *Pteropus*, a species of which genus is in the Society's Gardens. He states it is well known in the southern parts of Australia in summer months, but by far the largest flights are seen in the warmer latitudes. The attention is generally attracted to them just as daylight disappears, by the heavy flapping sound of their wings, as they fly in vast numbers overhead all in the same direction, these flights often continuing to pass for many hours together on their way to their feeding-places, generally about the banks of rivers where the tree known as the *flooded gum* grows, on the leaves of which they feed. Mr. Fairholme was fortunate enough to have seen two of these places of assembly, one on a small island in Moreton Bay, covered with dense scrub or jungle, another in the scrub close to his former residence, about forty miles inland from the Bay. And he states there would be no difficulty in procuring, at Moreton Bay, any number of young flying foxes, as the island on which they congregate is close to the anchorage for ships. Mr. P. P. Carpenter communicated a paper entitled 'First Step towards Monograph of the recent Species of *Petaloconchus*, a genus of *Vermetidae*.' Mr. Cuming communicated 'Descriptions of twenty-seven new Species of Land Shells, collected by M. Sallé in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico,' and also 'Descriptions of several other new Species in his own collection,' by Dr. L. Pfeiffer. Mr. Cuming also communicated 'Descriptions of four new Species of *Kelliidae* from his own collection,' by Mr. Sylvanus Hanley.

#### VARIETIES.

*Lord Brougham on Law Reform and a Minister of Justice.*—In a letter to G. W. Hastings, Esq., read at the last meeting of the Law Amendment Society, the veteran law reformer thus stated his views as to the objects to which at present the society is directing its attention:—"I wish I could congratulate our colleagues on the progress made of late in the amendment of the law. Let us hope, however, that the foundations have been laid of

measures which another session may enable us to obtain. It really, to take a remarkable example, does seem quite impossible that this country should any longer be suffered to remain without the regular means of ascertaining how the laws are executed; that we should be the only country without the help of judicial statistics, which not only France, Sardinia, Belgium, and the German States, but even the kingdom of Naples itself, possesses, though the information there may not be turned to any very good account. On the consequences of our being thus kept in the dark as to the working of our judicial system it would be superfluous to enlarge. But I see it said in some highly respectable quarters, that one bad effect has been our carrying on law amendment empirically, and without systematic plan. Now, in one sense, we have been guided by systematic principles. The plan which I have followed for about forty years, both before and since our Society began its labours, has been the introduction (in all departments) of natural Procedure, and getting rid of the innumerable and incalculable evils of technical Procedure. There can really hardly be named one of the improvements in our Jurisprudence during that long period which does not fall within this description. But if it be required that we should construct a new system upon improved principles, the answer is obvious; this plan could only be justified in the case of a community which either had previously no system at all, or a system so entirely vicious, that it must be utterly destroyed, and a new one put in its place. Now such happily is not the case in this country. There is very much of our existing law the soundness of which in its foundation, and the consistency in its superstructure, cannot be denied; and it is our duty to preserve what is good, removing by all safe and prudent measures whatever is vicious, and supplying what is deficient. It is not empirical or unscientific to proceed experimentally, that is, to note what reflection and, above all, experience, proves to stand in need of correction or improvement. It forms exactly one of the most unanswerable reasons in favour of our excellent and able colleague Mr. Napier's proposal of a Minister of Justice, that there would at all times be a department charged with the duty of watching how our laws work in each particular, and propounding measures for curing the proved flaws in the system, and quickening the action of its healthy parts."

*Fibre for Paper.*—Surely it is a reproach to Jamaica—where fibres of all descriptions abound in profusion, and where the plantain especially is grown in such an abundance, and might be cultivated to a far greater extent, if for fibre purposes alone—it is, we say, a reproach that we have not heard of a single large shipment having been attempted, nor the least stir made by our merchants (patriotic enough and good enough in other matters) towards getting up any kind of shipment of fibre. If these would urge the minor holders or proprietors (say in the neighbourhood of Kingston) to crush in the rudest manner the plantain stems, otherwise wasted, into fibre; fibre in the rough might have been exported to a considerable extent already from Jamaica, suitable for cordage. And if capitalists would associate and erect simple machinery here and there about the country, superior samples might have left the island with profit.—*Transactions of the Royal Society of Arts of Jamaica.*

*Shakspeare's House at Stratford-on-Avon.*—A gift of 500£. by Mr. John Shakspeare, of Langley Priory, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has now been made over to trustees, for the purchase of certain property on each side of Shakspeare's house, and the restoration of the Swan and Maidenhead to its original state. It is intended to remove whatever does not form an integral part of "the house" property on the White Lion side, and also Mr. Gill's house in the opposite direction. Mr. Shakspeare also, it is said, contemplates some farther donation in aid of the proposed improvements and restorations.—*The Builder.*

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